■ **Entertainment / A3-1**

'No, I am not a battered wife'

■ **Business / B1**

BIR goes after Meralco over P4-B tax due

■ **Sports / A25**

Aussie longshot wins RP Open

■ **News / A4**

Briton, wife charged with 'dissing' flag

■ **World / A12**

US called a hypocrite over Newsweek, Koran issue

ISLAM DIHINA
MELAYAN... A8

Love blooms again after 40 years

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Once more, with feeling.

For Thelma Villa and Miguel "Mike" Sumaria, love made a lovelier comeback all the way to the altar—40 years after they had parted.

They met in Negros Occidental and fell in

LOVE/ A7

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

No word yet on return of First Gentleman

By Nikko Dizon

THE MANILA International Airport Authority (Miaa) has received no word as to when First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo would be returning home, an airport official said yesterday.

Arroyo left the country via Singapore Airlines early Friday amid reports linking him

NO WORD/ A21

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Monday, May 23, 2005 ★★ 86 pages / 9 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 164 P18

website: www.inq7.net

Bishop to present 'jueteng' witness

SIGNATURE SHIRTS
Miss Philippines Gionna Cabrera (center), Miss Namibia Adele Basson (left) and Miss Peru Debora Sulca sign T-shirts of the official bank of the Miss Universe 2005 pageant, Bank of Ayudha, at a fair in Bangkok. The competition will take place on May 31. AFP

Testimony for Senate saved on video tape

By Christian V. Esguerra

HE WILL tell the Senate all he knows about "jueteng," including those who benefit from it, and he has preserved his testimony on video tape—just in case the people who would be implicated get the idea that he had lived far too long.

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz said yesterday he would present his witness at a planned Senate inquiry into jueteng operations in the country and the extent of corruption which the illegal numbers racket has spawned.

The witness, apparently a new one, is not one of those who had talked to the INQUIRER or those whom opposition Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson had alluded to in media interviews, Cruz indicated.

"The important thing is he has prepared a video which contains the things he will say, and it includes the names of people who might kill him if he comes out in the open," the prelate told the INQUIRER in Filipino.

Cruz added: "The person just wanted to be sure that even if something happened to him, he would have already said what he wanted to say."

The video tape is now in the hands of an "upright man for safekeeping," the bishop said.

BISHOP/ A22

PNP posts 'for sale,' says retired gov't official

By Luige A. del Puerto

A RELATIVE of a top government official has bastardized the Philippine National Police by putting police posts in some areas in Luzon "for sale," according to a retired government official familiar with the issue.

By "for sale," the source said he meant allotting PNP posts to certain officers in exchange for which the relative would get a cut of "jueteng" payoffs.

"*Baboy na baboy ang PNP* [The PNP has been so debased]," said the former official, who asked not to be identified for fear of reprisals. "I don't know if the PNP can still recover."

The ex-official said the practice started around two years ago when a high-ranking police official offered the relative a big percentage of the jueteng money he was getting if the relative would see to it that he got the PNP post he was eyeing.

The senior police official got the post.

A junior police officer confirmed this.

"It started with him," said the junior officer. "To get the post in Luzon, he offered him [relative] a sharing of 60-40. It meant whatever he got from jueteng, this general would keep only 40 percent."

"Then this [relative] started having ideas," the junior officer said.

The retired government official told the INQUIRER that it was common knowledge in the PNP that the assignment of police posts to jueteng-rich areas must have the clearance of this relative—a claim confirmed by independent sources.

"Not all posts ... but in areas where jueteng [is rampant], they have to clear it with him," the retired official said.

He said the practice, while done before, was not as flagrant as it is now.

He said "a couple" would even make the rounds of police officials to make sure they knew how

PNP POSTS/ A8

Oil executives face smuggling charges

By Michelle V. Remo
Business

IN THE first case to be filed under the government's Run After the Smugglers (RATS) program, prosecutors are set to charge executives of a local oil company today with violations of the Tariff and Customs Codes for allegedly smuggling 2 million liters of diesel fuel worth about P60 million.

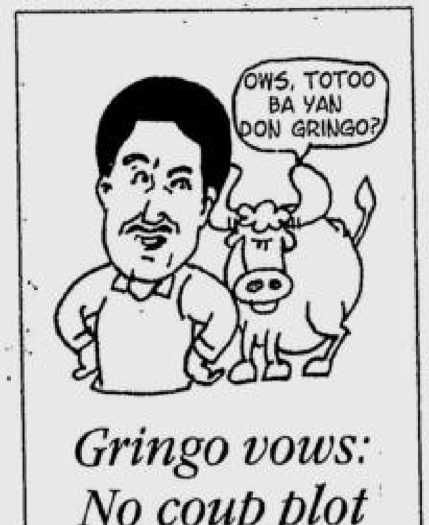
Also to be charged in the Department of Justice are several customs officials implicated in the alleged smuggling in October 2004 and January 2005 at the port of Davao City. Prosecutors said the government lost P8.5 million in duties due to the crime.

"We would like to show the public that we are really serious in our job," said Customs Commissioner Alberto Lina in an interview. "We really need this program to improve the government's credibility in fighting corruption and smuggling."

RATS is a joint program of the Bureau of Customs and the Department of Finance. Their announced plan is to file charges against suspected smugglers every two weeks. The aim is to put teeth into the government's fight against the perennial problem of smuggling.

"You'd notice that several BOC personnel are in the list of individuals in our complaint. We will

OIL EXECUTIVES/ A6


OWS, TOTOO BA YAN DON GRINGO?

Gringo vows: No coup plot against Gloria

By Fe B. Zamora

IS THAT you, Gringo?

The government's usual suspects in destabilization plots—former Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan and the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. (PGBI)—yesterday did something unusual: In a special convention, they vowed not to support any coup attempts against the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"As much as possible, we will only use legal, constitutional means," Honasan, one of the

GRINGO/ A22

The politics of stalemate: Year of living dangerously

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

SPEAKING during Indonesia's Independence Day on Aug. 17, 1964, President Sukarno prefigured 1965 as a "Year of Living Dangerously." He called on his audience to be united in "resisting the imperialist enemy."

In 1965, Sukarno was well under way on a confrontation policy to "crush Malaysia," announcing on Jan. 7 Indonesia's withdrawal from the United Nations. He called on the newly independent states of Asia and Africa to join an anti-imperialist coalition, which he called New Emerging Forces (Nefo). He had also planned Jakarta to be the venue of the Nefo conference that would replace the United Nations.

By mid-1965, Sukarno's prediction was beginning to appear like a self-fulfilling prophecy. In June, President Ahmed Ben Bella of Algeria was toppled in a bloodless coup d'etat by his defense minister and Army commander, Col. Houari Boumedienne. The coup led to the collapse of the anniversary of the Afro-Asian Conference in Bandung, which the Philippines had joined and which had put Indonesia at the forefront of the anti-imperalist and nonaligned movement.

The second Bandung in Algiers was to have been the stage to crown Sukarno's moment of glory as one of Asia's leaders in the struggle against Western imperialism.

The Algiers coup thwarted Sukarno's grand design. In September 1965, the curse of "living dangerously" had come home to roost. In the evening of Sept. 30, Sukarno collapsed momentarily while addressing a mass rally at Senajan stadium in Jakarta. Although he recovered, the event ignited a political upheaval that changed the course of Indonesia's history.

Although there had been rumors of Sukarno's failing health for sometime, his collapse was the event that broke the political stalemate in Indonesia between the military and the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI)—two of the best organized political forces under Sukarno's Nasakon, a precarious balancing mechanism among the contending tendencies of nationalism, Islam and Marxism.

A group of left-leaning officers of the Djakrabirawa Regiment, the presidential guard, took this as a signal to launch a plot to kill senior Indonesian

THE POLITICS/ A20

UP-DOWN THRILLS
A 360-degree roller coaster ride, fireworks display and laser light shows are among the top attractions of the theme park Enchanted Kingdom, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary.
RUDY ESPERAS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, MAY 23, 2005

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/05/23/05 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

Waste in other beaches being eyed, too

By Blanche Rivera

ASIDE from the popular-island resort of Boracay, the government also wants to ensure that the water quality in the country's other top beaches remain acceptable for frolicking.

The Environmental Management Bureau is strengthening its Beach Eco-Watch Program, or Beach Watch, to make sure that solid wastes disposed of by resorts do not affect the water quality.

Newly appointed EMB Director Lolibeth Medrano said the government was also monitoring the waste disposal systems of popular tourist destinations, particularly Puerto Galera and Palawan.

"The Beach Watch is primarily concerned with water quality but you can't monitor it independently, meaning just the water, because solid waste disposal is tied to it," Medrano told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday.

She said improper garbage disposal or the lack of a proper sewage system contributed heavily to the coliform content in the water.

"We have intensified Beach Watch with the Boracay incident so if we ever monitor a beach where the coliform content of the water has increased, we can immediately alert the people," Medrano said.

Former Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun started Beach Watch in 2003 as part of the country's coastal management effort.

The program was reinforced by the Clean Water Act, a comprehensive water management program passed last year which requires establishments to set up sewage treatment facilities before they can secure or renew their Environmental Compliance Certificates.

Aside from Boracay, other world-renowned beaches in the Philippines are Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro and the numerous diving destinations in Palawan, which draw many foreign tourists all year.

Boracay has come under intense scrutiny after the local government of Malay municipality, which has jurisdiction over the island resort, continued to dump waste in an open dumpsite on one side of the island resort.

Open dumpsites have been banned since last year as mandated by the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

Located in Sitio Lapuz-lapuz, Barangay Yapac, the open dump sits below the Mt. Luho view deck, which offers a panoramic view of the island and its environs, including Carabao Island and the Tablas Strait.

The mound of garbage has formed a precipitous 50-foot cliff that, with strong rains, could collapse onto the world-famous white sand beach and into the sea.

The dump has been in use since the 1990s. It was temporarily closed in February, but has since been reopened for lack of a waste disposal system.

Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano had earlier said Boracay was in "critical condition" and announced that there would be no further development on the island until they could put a certain order in place.

Durano said many establishments had been blatantly violating ordinances on environment protection, infrastructure, zoning and commercial activity.

He said that some establishments had secretly dug holes to dump waste in spite of an existing prohibition, and that others had built extensions of their facilities over natural waterways.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has given establishments in Boracay until June to come up with proper waste disposal facilities or face closure.

The DENR found that of some 500 establishments on the island, 161 lacked proper waste disposal facilities and sewerage systems.

Palace upbeat about licking poverty—Bunye

By Christine O. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG remained optimistic yesterday the Arroyo administration would eventually be able to lick the problem of poverty in the country, a day after a United Nations official chided the government for its lack of political will to fight the problem.

"With phase one of the President's reforms already completed, we are more confident of addressing the poverty incidence in our country," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a statement.

Bunye was referring to the fiscal reform measures that the President had sought and gotten from Congress, the latest of which is the new Value-Added Tax Law which is set to be signed tomorrow by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The reform measures are intended to raise revenues for the cash-strapped government which, in turn, has promised to invest them in its pro-poor and development programs.

UN Millennium Development Goals campaign director Salil Shetty the other day said the lack of political will and resources and the growing gap between the rich and the poor were hampering government efforts to reduce poverty and provide basic needs to its citizens.

The country is among 189 nations that signed the UN Millennium Declaration to reduce poverty and provide basic needs such as potable water and education by 2015.

Bunye said it was important for the country to qualify for the millennium challenge account because this would boost the fight against poverty.

"It is also an acknowledgement of the gains we have made in pushing economic reforms and good governance," he said.

The signing of the VAT, nearly two weeks after Congress ratified the measure, was timed with the meeting of executive officials and lawmakers belonging to the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (Ledac) in Malacañang, presidential adviser on political affairs Gabriel Claudio said yesterday.

Claudio said the VAT would only be signed this week because "printing and the enrollment (of the measure) were only completed late last week."

"There is no undue delay or any intention to delay the signing," he said in a text message to the INQUIRER, when asked if the threat of the opposition to question the VAT measure before the Supreme Court had caused the Palace to delay the signing of the new law.

EC envoy hopes RP would get more aid

By Nikko Dizon

THE EUROPEAN Commission (EC) ambassador to the Philippines has expressed the hope the European community would increase its financial aid to the Philippines.

"I hope so. It depends on the European Council and the European Parliament… how much money they will make available to Asia, and if there is an increase in aid to Asia, then we may expect an increase of aid to the Philippines," Ambassador Jan de Kok told reporters in a recent interview.

De Kok said the debate on how much financial assistance would be made available to Asia would conclude in October this year.

Until then, De Kok said, "We will have to wait for it."

According to the website of the European Commission to the Philippines, the EC has financed 24 bilateral development projects in cooperation with the Philippine government amounting to about P295.6 million.

Some 64% of the assistance went to rural development projects that ultimately led to increased employment and savings for investment in rural areas, as well as to develop the potential of the rural poor to maximize available resources.

The EC said that four percent of the bilateral assistance was channeled to rehabilitation projects in areas hit by manmade and natural disasters and in areas affected by the armed conflict in Mindanao.

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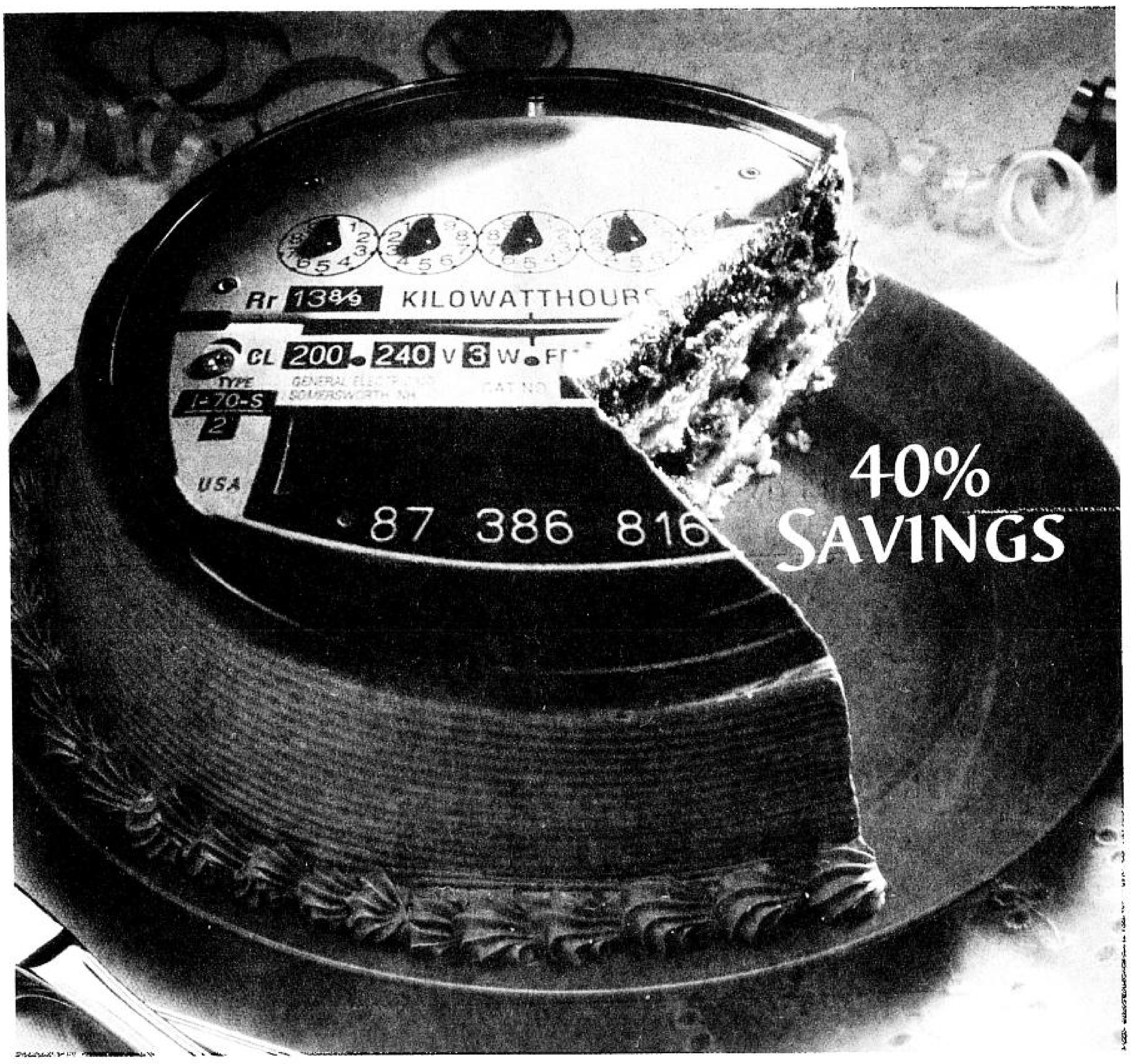

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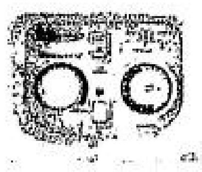

Set the aircon timer to the desired number of hours.

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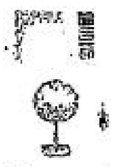
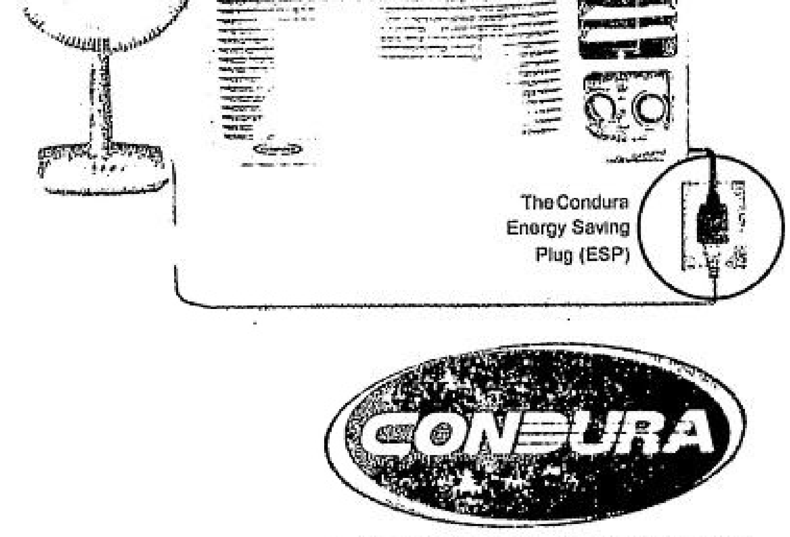


When the aircon turns off, the electric fan automatically turns on.



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PLAYING WITH FIRE ERIK ARAZAS

A woman flame-thrower heats up the celebration of the fiesta of Sta. Rita de Cascia in Baclaran, Parañaque City, yesterday. May is traditionally the month for fiestas throughout the Philippines.

RP, China to boost defense ties

By Luige A. del Puerto

AFTER earlier boosting trade and investment ties, the Philippines and China now seek to improve defense and security cooperation with the arrival of China's No. 2 defense official.

Gen. Xiong Guangkai, deputy chief of staff of China's People's Liberation Army, will be given full military honors at Camp Aguinaldo today, the military said in a statement. He will be in Manila until May 25.

To be signed during the visit is the $1.2-million donation of engineering equipment from China. Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. and Xiong will sign the agreement, the statement said.

Xiong's visit is expected to pave the way for an annual dialogue between top defense officials of the two countries.

"As far as I know, this is the first time that China and the Philippines will hold a dialogue at the defense level," said Brig. Gen. Jose Honrado, commander of the AFP Civil Relations Group.

"We need to widen our horizons. China is a major player in the region," Honrado said.

The military official did not disclose the agenda for the discussions during the visit. But since this is the first time that such a dialogue is taking place, Honrado said he did not expect the military officials from both counties to tackle "hard issues."

But in an earlier statement, the Department of National Defense said the discussions would cover regional security, transnational crimes such as drug and human smuggling, and terrorism.

China and the Philippines—and other countries in Southeast Asia—claim in whole or in part the Spratlys, a chain of islands believed to be rich in marine and mineral resources.

In April, Chinese President Hu Jintao visited the Philippines and endorsed investments and loans worth $1.6 billion to fund infrastructure and mining projects in the country.

ILO program benefits Pinoy child workers

By Nikko Dizon

FILIPINO child workers in the fishing industry are among the beneficiaries of a long-running International Labor Organization '(ILO) program funded mostly by the United States government, a ranking US labor official said.

US Deputy Secretary of Labor Steven Law said the Timebound Program of the ILO-International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC) is "working to remove children from fishing crews and provide them with health care, counseling and educational support such as basic literacy training, non-formal education and school supplies."

In an article published in the May 2005 issue of the US State Department's electronic journal, Economic Perspectives, Law noted that hazardous child labor in the Philippine fishing industry is common due to the country's high poverty and population rates.

"Some children work up to eight hours at night, diving to chase fish into nets, while others work on deep-sea fishing expeditions for six to 10 months where they dive as deep as 15 meters without protective gear. These child laborers are at risk for ear damage, injuries from falls, shark attacks, snake bites and drowning, among other hazards," Law said.

The ILO project also focuses on the implementation of sustainable child-labor monitoring systems, composed of teams from the IPEC project staff and personnel from the Philippines' Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, the Coast Guard and the Department of Labor and Employment.

"The teams have conducted random inspections on fishing vessels and in communities where children are typically recruited for work," Law said.

He added that local municipalities have been encouraged to provide protection to former child laborers and to continuously monitor child labor activities.

The ILO-IPEC staff has also developed standard screening procedures for boat crew members that could be used by local authorities, Law said.

In his article, Law said the US government has been the largest donor to ILO-IPEC, providing an estimated $255 million for technical assistance projects.

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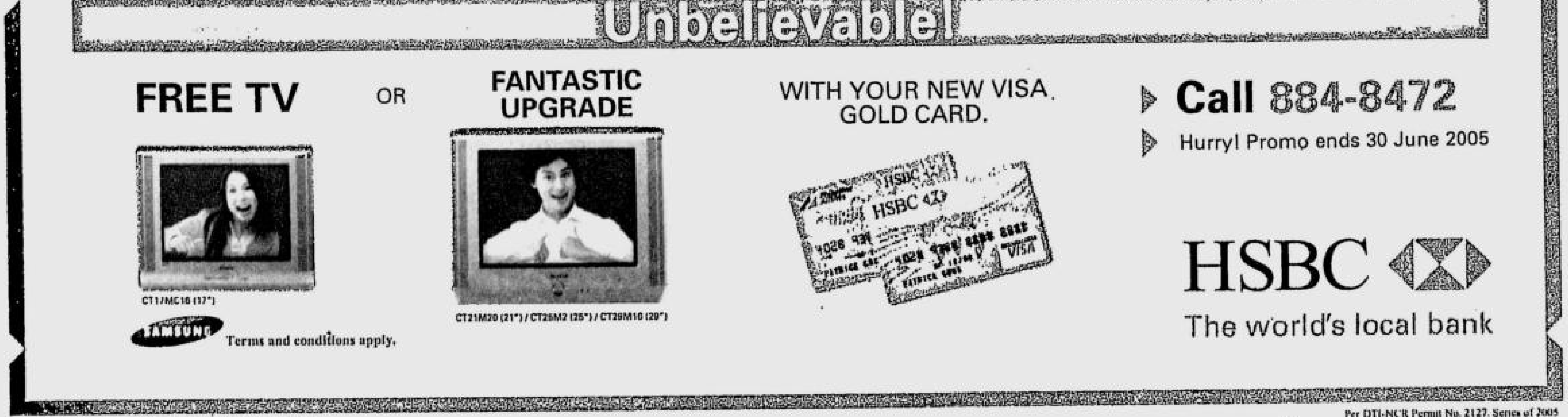
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Briton, wife charged with 'dissing' flag

ANGELES CITY—The uproar here over the "utter disrespect" shown by a Briton and his Filipino wife toward the Philippine flag has reached the courts.

Officers of the Mimosa Golf and Country Club Association Inc. based at the Clark Special Economic Zone filed administrative and criminal complaints against Ronald and Amelia Judd on May 19 in the city prosecutor's office.

Affidavits submitted by club members Allan Dungao, Simon Mangio, Amor Gorospe and Risellino Juan Bernardo Soto said the Judds remained seated and continued to eat their food during the flag-raising ceremony before the start of a golf tournament at Mimosa on March 5.

They said the couple also ignored hand signals telling them to stand up while the national anthem was being played.

Florentino Mercado, a Mimosa member, approached the Judds and asked them to "respect" the Philippine flag but his appeal went unheeded, the complainants said.

"Despite our repeated motions and gestures, they remained comfortably seated during the flag ceremony and ... continued to enjoy their food ... in grave disregard of the entire solemn proceeding," said Dungao in his affidavit.

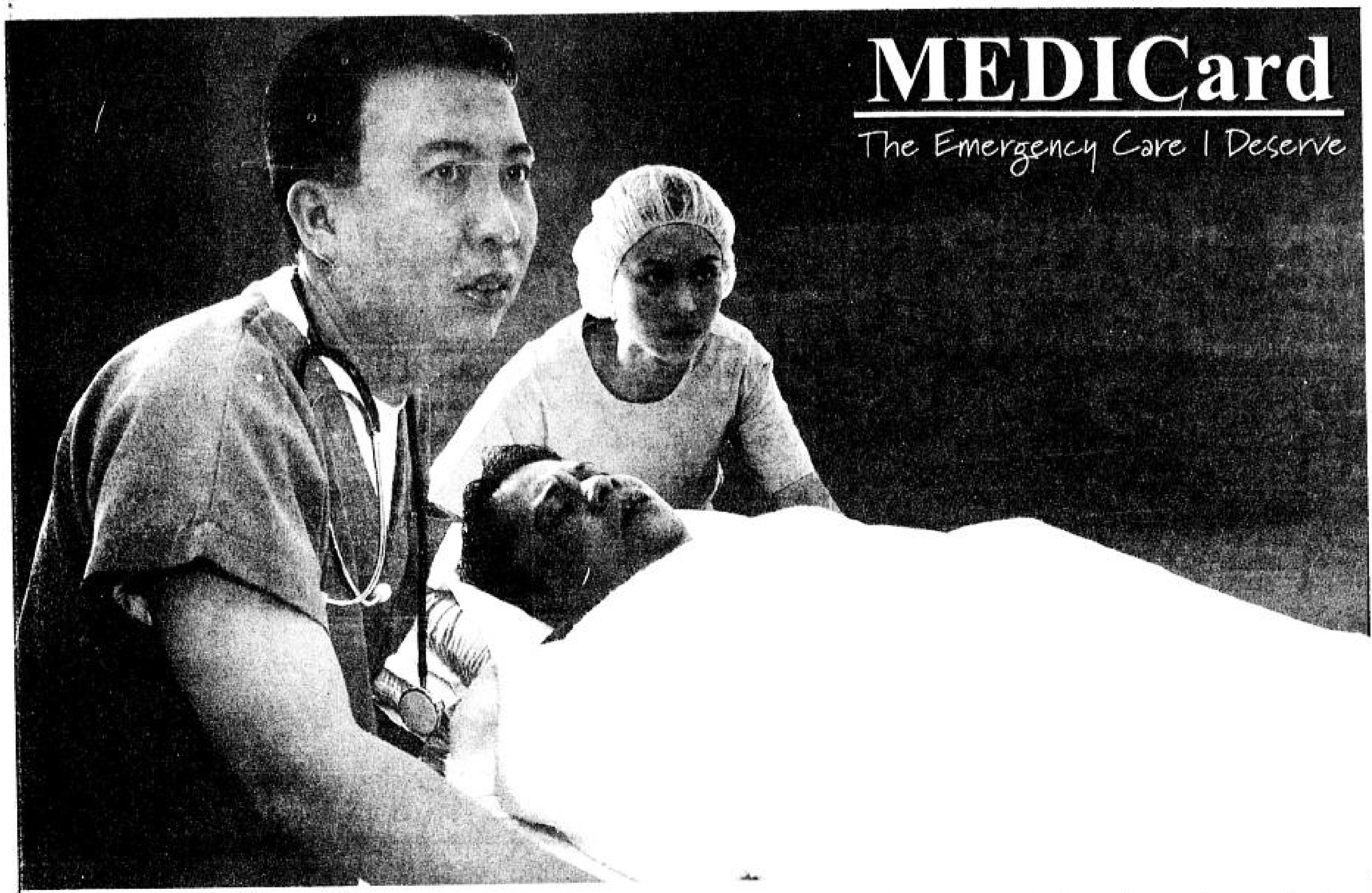
Two months after the incident, Dungao said they waited for Ronald Judd to apologize. Judd eventually did apologize but the association's directors voted to remove him from their board.

When contacted, Judd said he had "nothing to say" about the incident.

"I have no comment to make," he told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

The complaints against the spouses involved violation of Republic Act No. 8491, or the act prescribing the code of conduct toward the national flag, anthem, motto, coat-of-arms and other heraldic items and devices of the Philippines.

By law, during a flag-raising ceremony, the "assembly shall stand in formation facing the flag." *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*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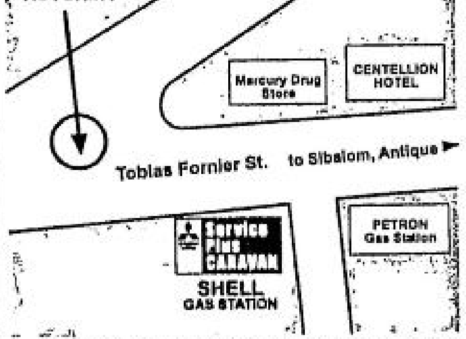

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SuperFerry shooting prompts review of sea marshal system

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE PHILIPPINE Coast Guard will review the sea marshal system that it has been implementing since last year following an incident on Friday night where a SuperFerry 16 security officer was killed during an argument with a sea marshal in Davao City.

PCG commandant Vice Admiral Arthur Gosingan ordered the reassessment so that any deficiencies in the system could be fixed, said PCG spokesperson Lt. Armand Balilo.

"We will check if there is a need to reorient the sea marshals about their duties and responsibilities. We just want to be sure the system is running smoothly," Balilo said.

Balilo said the review was partly triggered by the shooting to death of Joel Facura, chief security officer of the SuperFerry 16, on Friday night at the Sasa wharf in Davao. The suspect was identified as Julius Villanueva, a member of the Philippine Navy who was assigned to the sea marshals.

The shooting took place on the ship's gangplank during a heated altercation between the two men. The PCG is investigating whether the argument was work-related.

Balilo also said the sea marshals had been instructed to be extra vigilant since the number of ship passengers was expected to rise with the impending school opening.

"They need to be on guard, especially now that a lot of people would likely return to Metro Manila for school," he said.

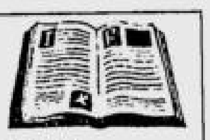
Task Force Sea Marshals, which is under PCG supervision, is composed not only of Coast Guard personnel but of police and Armed Forces officers who had been deputized as sea marshals.

A sea marshals team composed of two PCG members, two policemen and two Armed Forces personnel are deployed on each ship throughout its voyage. The team is tasked with inspecting the ship and the luggage to check for illegal and dangerous materials like explosives and guns.

The marshals also monitor passengers for any suspicious movements and to prevent thefts and brawls from taking place.

Task Force Sea Marshals was formed last year shortly after the SuperFerry 14 was bombed in February. The incident left over 100 people dead or missing. The communist New People's Army had claimed responsibility for the bombing.

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Monday, May 23, 2005
8th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Sir 17:20-24
Gospel:	Mark 10:17-27

Just as Jesus was setting out on his journey again, a man ran up, knelt before him and asked, "Good Master, what must I do to have eternal life?"

Jesus answered, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: Do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, do not cheat, honor your father and mother." The man replied, "I have obeyed all these commandments since my childhood."

Then Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him and he said, "For you, one thing is lacking. Go, sell what you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven. Then come and follow me." On hearing these words, his face fell and he went away sorrowful for he was a man of great wealth.

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!" The disciples were shocked at these words, but Jesus insisted, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

They were more astonished than ever and wondered, "Who, then, can be saved?" Jesus looked steadily at them and said, "For humans it is impossible, but not for God; all things are possible with God."

Commentary

Jesus is setting out on his way to the Cross in Jerusalem and is interrupted by a man who worships him and asks him the ground line question: "Good Master, what must I do to have eternal life?" But Jesus will not even let him call him 'good' for the man has his ideas and Jesus teaches him surely that only God is good, and God has other criteria than we do. Besides he knows the answer—as a Jew, obeying the law makes him holy. And he listens as Jesus recites the law—and he claims that he has obeyed them all since he was young. That in itself is amazing! Do we obey all the commandments? Jesus looks at him with love and invites him into the kingdom, into the inner circle of his disciples, invites him as close as one can get to him—and tells him there is one more thing: to sell his excess and give it to the poor, lay up treasure in heaven and come back and follow him, among his own who will be his friends. But he can't—he's too attached to all that he has and turns away. It's hard to get into the kingdom, harder still if you are wealthy and still harder to be a disciple. Are we just believers in Jesus but have no intention of being disciples, or caring for the poor? The invitation is there—how often have we saddened the heart of Jesus and refused his love?

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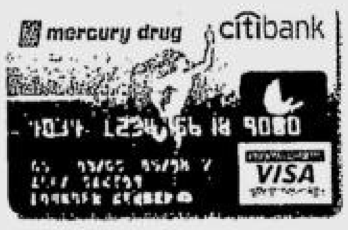

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Oil executives face smuggling raps

From page A1

not spare even our own people if they are guilty of abetting smuggling. In fact, we would be harsher in going after corrupt BOC officials who, instead of setting good examples of professionalism, become one with our enemies," Lina said.

Government loses

According to BOC lawyer Arnel C. Alcaraz, the officials of Petroline Resources Inc. to be charged include company president Arturo Lopez and general manager Ernesto Soriano.

Petroline is a firm registered as a customs bonded manufacturing warehouse (CBMW) for intermediate fuel oil.

Petroline officials were not immediately available for comment.

The customs officials named for alleged collusion included Ramesis A. Diuyan, customs broker for Petroline; Aniceto Sanchez, former district collector of the Port of Davao and current deputy collector; Ebenezer M. Arellano, chief of the CBW division of the Port of Davao; customs staffer Antonio Michael D. Plata; Antonio B. Ordona, customs operations officer II of the Port of Davao; Allan Niel N. Ibañez, warehouseman for Petroline, and Roberto Ellivera, conducting guard for the BOC at the Port of Davao. They are also to be charged by the Ombudsman.

Operations of a CBMW for fuel evolve through the importation of diesel fuel and other raw materials, the manufacture of intermediate oil using the raw materials, and then the sale of the manufactured fuel to companies that are engaged solely in shipping products to foreign markets.

CBMWs are privileged with duty-free importation, but the products they import should not be sold commercially in the local market. They are required to seek permission and pay corresponding duties should they decide to sell their products in the local market.

But government prosecutors alleged that Petroline used its license to operate as a CBMW only to escape the payment of duties, but it actually sold its products in the local market.

'Tip of the iceberg'

According to Alcaraz, who also serves as project coordinator for RATS, customs investigators coordinated with agencies like the Philippine Coast Guard and the Philippine Ports Authority.

The government agencies denied the claim of Petroline that it sold its fuel products to a firm engaged in the export of fish, and it gave a certification that no transaction had taken place.

Petroline claimed that the oil products it manufactured using the raw materials it imported were sold to a company that transports fish to foreign markets, and therefore they were not liable for paying the corresponding duties.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg for the oil industry," said Lina. He added that the RATS program would initially target players in the huge oil industry, considering that oil accounts for 20 percent of the country's total import requirements.

But the customs chief said that the bureau would not only focus on the regular filing of smuggling charges but also on conducting regular visits to and investigating various stores nationwide that are suspected of selling smuggled items.

Need to raise revenues

Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan, who heads the DOF's anticorruption campaign, said RATS was part of the department's three-pronged approach to raise more revenues by cleansing both the government and the private sector of dishonest activities that adversely affect government's revenue collection.

RATS complements RATE (Run After Tax Evaders) of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the relaunched RIPS (Revenue Integrity Protection Service) of the DOF.

Under RATE, the BIR and the DOF file tax evasion charges against celebrities and known businesses once a week. Under RIPS, meanwhile, the DOF files charges against corrupt officials and employees of the Bureau of Customs.

Bonoan said the DOF was targeting to achieve the four Rs, which means "RATE, RIPS and RATS for increased Respect for government."

"The public has to start believing and respecting government institutions if we want to be successful in improving revenue collections," he said.

No compromise

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima earlier said the government would no longer entertain compromise settlement offers from people charged with corruption, tax evasion and smuggling. He said the DOF had adopted a stricter policy against these illegal activities, and that one of its objectives was to send suspects to jail.

Purisima said that the government's previous soft stance on tax evasion and smuggling sent the wrong signal that suspects, when caught, could just offer settlements and easily get away with their crime.

He said the DOF had already raised its request with the Office of the Ombudsman and the Department of Justice to give due attention to the cases of smuggling, tax evasion and corruption filed under the RATE, RIPS and RATS to set examples of conviction.

Correction

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a photo caption in the Entertainment section on Page A3-3 erroneously identified the woman with Holywood actor Charlton Heston and Filipino actress Rosa Rosal at a Red Cross fundraiser. The woman (right) was former first lady Luz Magsaysay—not former first lady Eva Macapagal.

* * *

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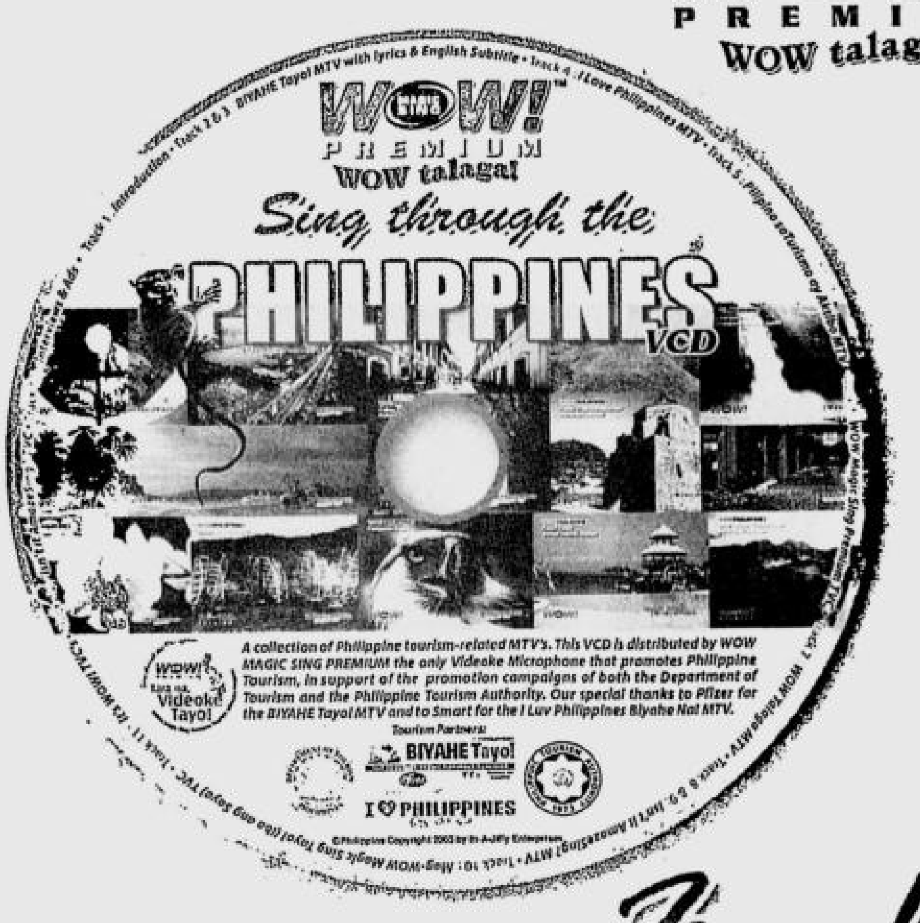
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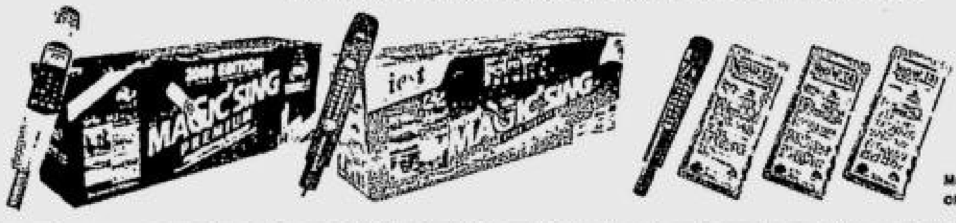

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Love blooms again after 40 …

From page A1

love in 1958. She was then 21; he was 26 and working for a surveying firm.

When Mike went back to Manila, they kindled their romance through letters for seven years, until they eventually lost touch with each other.

Thelma became a midwife and worked in Libya and the United States. Mike was employed at a sugar mill in Tarlac and retired in his hometown of New Lucena, Iloilo, where he became barangay chair and later councilor.

Both stayed single.

Thelma returned to Bacolod from the United States two years ago and became active in projects of the Lupit Church of the Sacred Heart Seminary on Lizares Avenue.

In January, she met Lina Nogra, who turned out to be a relative of Mike's, during the wake of a friend's daughter.

"When Lina told me she was from New Lucena, I told her I once had a boyfriend from there … When I gave his name, he turned out to be her relative," Thelma said. "So when Nogra went to New Lucena, she told Mike about me and he called me up in February and told me that he still loved me."

Thelma said she, too, still loved him. She has kept a faded picture of Mike in her wallet all these years.

Although she had had other boyfriends from her many travels, she never really found the one she wanted to marry, she said.

Excitement

Now 73, Mike told her he wanted to see her and would marry her , said the 68-year-old Thelma.

"He promised me that he would come here on April 12, but he got sick for 12 days, too much excitement at the thought of seeing me again," she said, bursting out in laughter.

The two said they could hardly eat and sleep.

Mike's relatives and friends, including the mayor of New Lucena, teased him about finding a long-lost love. Thelma, on the other hand, briefed friends at the Lupit Church on developments.

On April 26, Mike arrived at her house.

"When he walked in the door, I thought he looked old," Thelma said, "but when we hugged each other, the years faded away."

Mike said they both realized that they still loved each other very much and still had the gift of being able to laugh at each other's stories. "We can sit at the dining table for hours telling stories and laughing away," he said.

As soon as possible

They decided to get married as soon as possible. "We are old already, we do not want to waste any more time," Thelma said.

On Saturday afternoon, the couple exchanged marriage vows at the Sacred Heart Seminary Chapel amid the rainbow colors of the bridal entourage. About 100 people, mostly relatives and friends, witnessed the event.

Dressed in a cream gown, Thelma nervously walked down the aisle, escorted by her uncle, Espiridion Villa. Mike, in a white *barong*, was beaming as he stood near the altar.

The ceremony was officiated by Fr. Jude Serfino and co-celebrated by Fathers Gerardo Alminaza, Alex Araneta, Ronaldo Quijano and Emilio Jaruda.

Like teenagers, Thelma and Mike giggled as they related how they first met.

Crush

Thelma said she was a secretarial student at the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos when she went to Himamaylan town and met Mike, a surveyor.

"I had a crush on him, he was tall and handsome," she said.

"She was pretty. She had nice teeth and chinky eyes," Mike said of Thelma. "When I first saw her, I thought this is the woman I will marry."

When he returned to his office in Manila, he kept writing to her. He later got a job at Central Azucarera de Tarlac. Thelma said they wrote to each other twice a week.

When Mike proposed marriage, Thelma declined, saying she had to look after her younger siblings.

Fit of jealousy

The distance had taken its toll on the affair. Thelma often got jealous and suspicious that Mike was seeing other women. One day, she sent all his letters back to him in a fit of jealousy and stopped writing him.

Mike said he read her letters over and over again during their separation.

Thelma went on to work as a midwife at the Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Hospital. She decided to work abroad in 1967.

Mike said he had girlfriends after he lost Thelma, but he did not want to marry any of them as Thelma was always at the back of his mind. "I kept thinking I might meet her again," he said.

Now that he has her back, he does not want to lose her again, he said.

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Deported Fil-Aussie going home this week

SYDNEY—A Filipino-Australian woman wrongly deported to the Philippines is likely to return to Australia this week for the first time in four years, her lawyer said Sunday.

Philippine-born Vivian Alvarez was deported in 2001 by Australian government officials who mistakenly thought she was an illegal immigrant.

Following recent media coverage of her case, it emerged that she had been living since 2001 in a convent hospice in Olongapo City north of Manila.

The Australian government has offered to assist the woman, who also used the surnames Solon and Young, return home.

Her lawyer on Sunday said discussions during his recent visit to Manila had focused on her return to Australia, where her two children live.

"I think that would probably result in her returning later in the week or early the following week," lawyer Harry Freedman told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Freedman, who is part of an Australian legal team representing Alvarez pro bono, said it was too early to say whether his client would sue the Australian government over her experience.

He said Alvarez had undergone medical tests in Manila the past week and that any compensation offer from the Australian government should take her health into account. *AFP*

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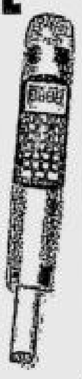

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PNP posts 'for sale' for 'jueteng' money, says ex-gov't official

From page A1

things were done.

Jueteng has affected governance and that is what makes it "very, very bad," said the ex-official.

"Jueteng corrupts everybody ... that is why this (jueteng issue) is one gigantic *moro-moro*," he said.

He added: "I'm telling you, it is very corrupting. It is very difficult to remain untouched by jueteng. The difference then and now is just the degree."

A cash-crop

The retired official described jueteng as the "cash crop" of the police, their ready source of money.

Often, this money is used to subsidize police operations and provide ordinary cops with extra allowances. The worst that could happen is for a police official on the take to keep the money all for himself, the former official said.

Last month, a ranking police officer alleged in an interview with the INQUIRER that three relatives of a top government official had been dictating who would get the top police posts in provinces with jueteng operations.

In exchange, the relatives allegedly got substantial cuts of the gambling payoffs.

Buying silence

The officer identified the relatives by their supposed code names—M1, M2 and JS7.

He claimed that in just one region in Luzon, the relatives got a total of P2 million a month, shrinking the police officers' take from P5 million to P3 million.

This was supposedly on top of what they got from the operators themselves, also estimated to be in the millions.

Describing the alleged web of corruption that jueteng has spawned, a former Metro Manila lawmaker said jueteng money was being used to buy off some congressmen.

"It's really a bribe ... meant to keep their mouths shut," said the former lawmaker.

A charade

"You know congressmen have oversight functions over the DILG (Department of the Interior and Local Government). So, for one, they don't grill (DILG officials) on jueteng. They simply keep quiet about it," he said.

The DILG has broad supervisory powers over the PNP.

The former lawmaker cited the case of an alleged jueteng lord who was invited to a congressional inquiry into the illegal numbers game.

"Remember one gambling lord who said he did not even know how to play the game? Well, they [congressmen] let him get away with that," he said.

While congressmen made a great show of seriousness in that inquiry, they knew exactly what to do.

"*Basta huwag pitpitin ang* lord [Just don't hammer the lord]," the ex-congressman said.

The former lawmaker was the same source who told the INQUIRER last week that congressmen in Luzon and Metro Manila during his time received at least P50,000 to P100,000 in monthly payoffs from jueteng operators. He said he knew that because he, too, had taken the money.

"What many do not realize is that congressmen are very powerful, and they can pressure the chief of the PNP to remove an uncooperative police official [from his post]," said the former congressman.

By "uncooperative," the source meant cops who could not control "guerrilla operators," or those operating outside the circle of the gambling lord. Some cops also asked for too big a cut from jueteng lords, who then asked for their removal.

The ex-lawmaker said inquiries into jueteng had become a mockery of the law, a charade in which the police, congressmen and local officials played roles.

"A congressman delivers a privilege speech against jueteng. He truly wants it stopped—but only those [targeted are] 'guerrilla' operators. The lord's operations are not the target," he said.

A "guerrilla" is a small-time jueteng operator.

"The police make the raid, but go only after the guerrilla operations. The local police chief writes his report, and the local officials commend him," he said.

Then the inquiry would die a natural death and jueteng operations would continue, he said.

"You must understand, people in the provinces get angry if there is no jueteng," he said.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (SPECIAL CONTRACTS: SALES)—**Caveat emptor; Let the buyer beware**—One who purchases real property which is in actual possession of others should, at least, make some inquiry concerning the rights of those in possession. The actual possession by people other than the vendor should, at least, put the purchaser upon inquiry. He can scarcely, in the absence of such inquiry, be regarded as a bona fide purchaser as against such possessions. The rule of caveat emptor requires the purchaser to be aware of the supposed title of the vendor and one who buys without checking the vendor's title takes all the risks and losses consequent to such failure. It is further perplexing that Marquez did not fight for the possession of the property if it were true that he had a better right to it. In our opinion, there were circumstances at the time of the sale, and even at the time of registration, which would reasonably require a purchaser of real property to investigate to determine whether defects existed in his vendor's title. Instead, Marquez willfully closed his eyes to the possibility of the existence of these flaws. For failure to exercise the measure of precaution which may be required of a prudent man in a like situation, he cannot be called a purchaser in good faith. (Citations omitted.) (Justice Tinga, Consolidated Rural Bank (Cagayan Valley), Inc. v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 132161, January 17, 2005)

BY R.B. VERA

If previous pages caused hyperacidity, this page can take it out

Stress, a big contributor to Hyperacidity

By KATRINA PRIMAVERA

NO NEWS is good news. Distressing current events may not only cause your blood pressure to shoot up but it may also be a reason for your acids to act up. Stress is but one of the many factors that contribute to hyperacidity. Smoking, physical exertion, irregular eating habits, dramatic weight gain, lying down too soon after a meal and pregnancy hormones are also common causes of a hyperacidity attack. Hyperacidity happens when there is an excessive secretion of acid in the stomach. It is not a disease but rather a collection of symptoms, including discomfort or burning in the upper abdomen which may also cause nausea. For relief from these discomforts, the most common over-the-counter remedy is an antacid.

Different terms and varying degrees of hyperacidity

HYPERACIDITY, locally known as *pangangasim ng sikmura*, is the excessive secretion of hydrochloric acid in the stomach. This imbalance causes a burning sensation or a slight churning in the stomach, which could also involve the esophagus and part of the small intestines.

Peptic ULCERS: refer to actual open sores or "wounds" in the inner lining of the stomach or small intestine or esophagus. Many ulcers result in a gnawing pain in the stomach and are caused by a bacteria called H. pylori. Other causes or factors which may aggravate ulcers include long term use of certain pain relievers, smoking, excessive alcohol consumption and stress. While over-the-counter medications may relieve the pain of ulcers, a doctor should be consulted so that proper treatment directed at healing the ulcer can be started.

INDIGESTION ("dyspepsia"). This is a general term often used to describe a collection of uncomfortable abdominal symptoms which often occur after eating. The cause of indigestion can't be attributed to one particular thing and is often times not serious. This includes discomfort or burning in the upper abdomen, nausea and a bloated feeling that belching may relieve. This can stem from a temporary problem such as overeating or a stressful event rather than relating it to a disease. It is a common disorder of the upper gastrointestinal system which includes the esophagus, stomach and the first part of the small intestine. The proper diet, exercise, stress management and anti-acid medications can all help with the symptoms.

HEARTBURN. When the lower sphincter valve of the esophagus relaxes or is weak, stomach acid can flow back up into the esophagus and irritate the esophagus resulting in "heartburn". The sensation is similar to regurgitation while experiencing a sour taste in the mouth and leaving a burning sensation behind the breastbone. Acid regurgitation or reflux can even cause hoarseness of the voice , coughing, and worsening of asthma.

TREATMENT. For quick acid neutralization, New Mylanta Rolltabs (CALCIUM CARBONATE + MAGNESIUM HYDROXIDE). Mylanta Rolltabs comes in chewable and great tasting flavors to aid in the rapid neutralization of acid to start relief in seconds. It's portable and comes in different flavors giving you sweet relief in no time, anytime. Don't forget to consult your doctor if symptoms persist, are severe, or keep recurring. Some of the things which may aggravate or result in heartburn: Stress, smoking, tight clothing, physical exertion, weight gain, lying down too soon after a meal and pregnancy.

Hyperacidity Tales

" I love coffee. I used to have 7-10 cups a day. Thing is with coffee, I would lose my appetite and end up skipping meals so I would get the worst hyperacidity attacks. I would feel as if there was this big ball burning inside my tummy." -Paul, 25

"Grabe ang hyperacidity ko. Pasulpot sulpot na lang. Para sa akin dumarating na lang yan ng walang warning. May isang beses naglalakad lang ako sa daan tapos may naramdaman akong sakit na biglaan sa tiyan. Ang tindi at ang lakas ng tama, napaupo ako sa daan bigla." -Lawrence, 24

"Ang pinakamatindi kong hyperacidity attack ay nung kumain ako ng manggang hilaw sa umaga. Hindi pa ako nag-aalmusal, so wala pang laman tiyan ko. Ay ang sakit talaga." -Mia, 24

" Hyperacidity is such a hassle. The worst part about it is that you never know when it's gonna hit you. There was this one time I was out with my girl friends and started getting spasms in my stomach. At first, I thought it was just gas or something I ate but the pain got worse as I was having my drinks. So not only did I have to pass up on the drinks, the pain became unbearable so I went home and missed out on what would have been a perfectly good night out." -Karen, 35

"I would get acidic once in a while but for some reason, it's more frequent and more intense during exam week. Things are a little bit more busy at that time. I like to go out kasi. Hanging with the boys and spending time with my girlfriend so tendency is for me to study last minute. I think the cramming and the pressure just aggravates my hyperacidity. Stress, you know?" -Joey 17,

CONT...

"Hindi ako familiar sa mga sakit na ganyan. Basta iniisip ko lagi, lilipas lang yan. Pero may isang beses na nakaranas ako ng sakit sa tiyan. Ay, kakaiba talaga. Hindi ko siya maipinta. Parang may mainit at mahapding bulateng umiikot sa loob ng tiyan ko. Sinubukan kong itulog pero sa tindi ng sakit, hindi ako makatulog. Akala ko nagkaka-dysmenorrhea na ko , pero sus, hyperacidity pala siya"
-Tiffany, 24

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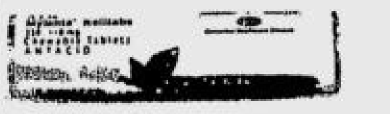

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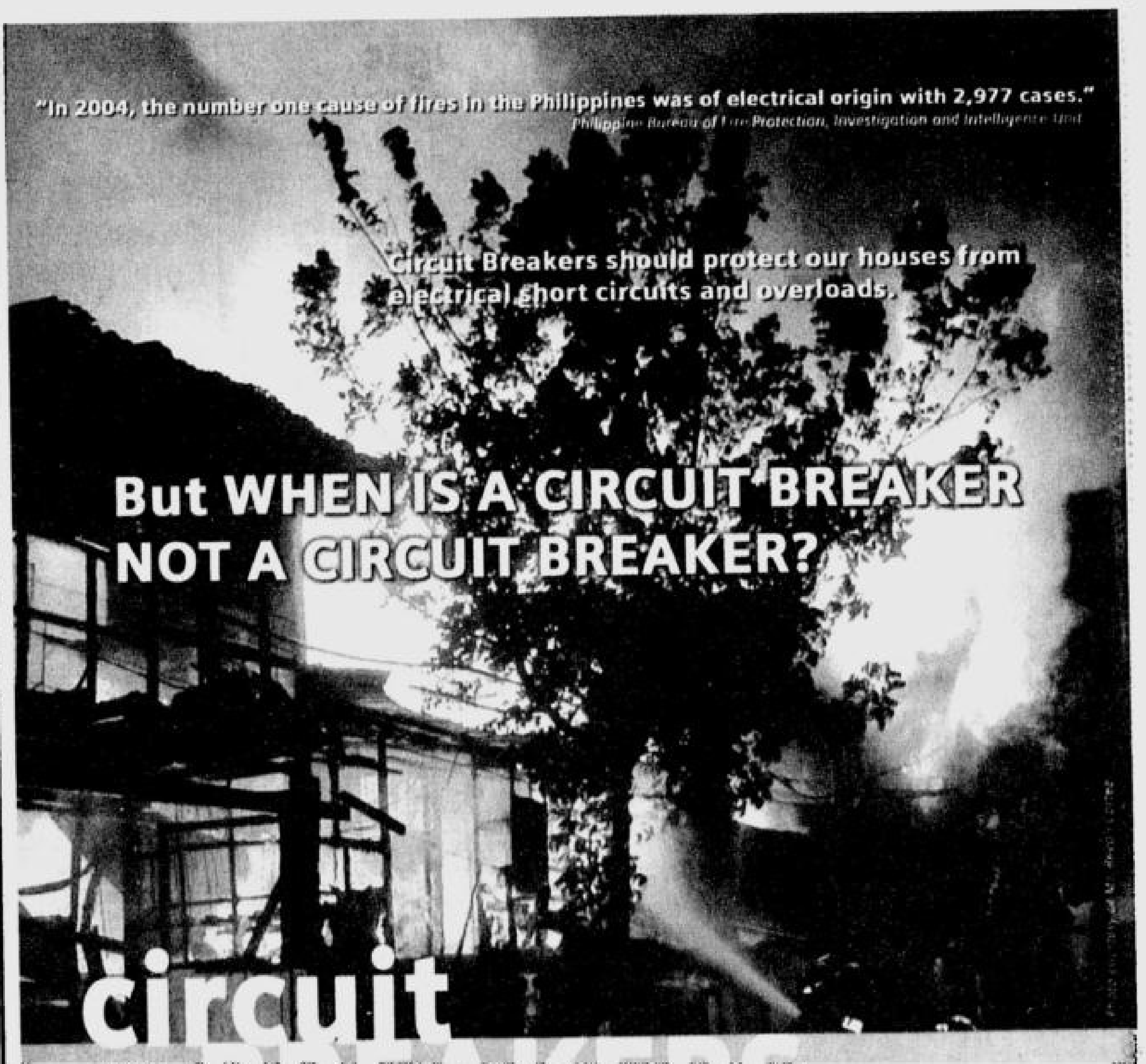

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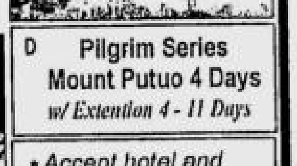

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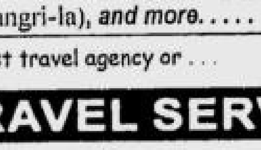

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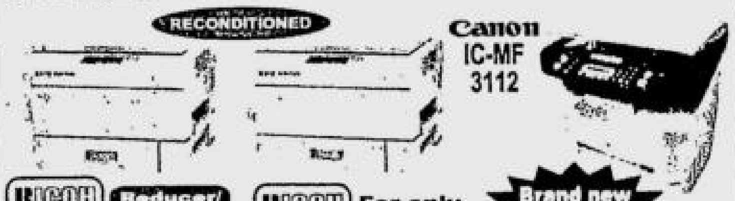

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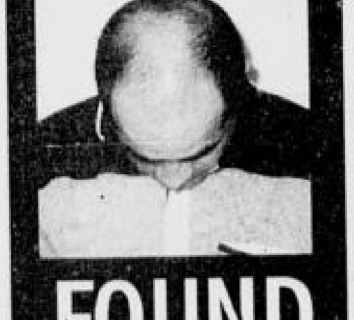

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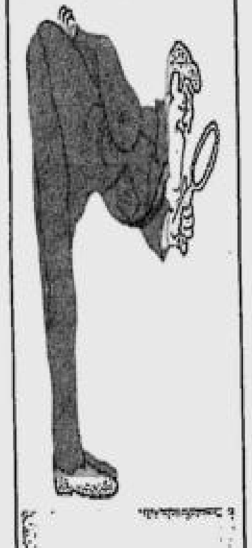

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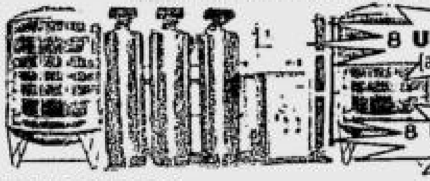

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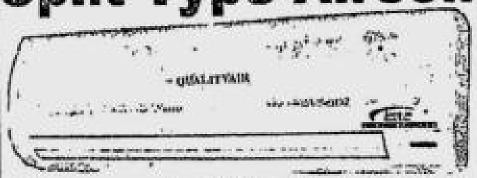

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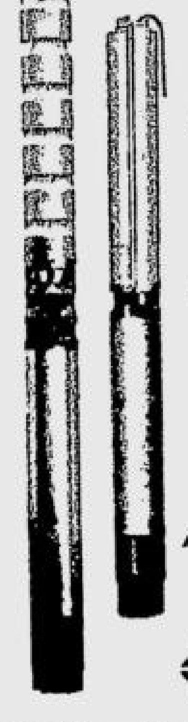

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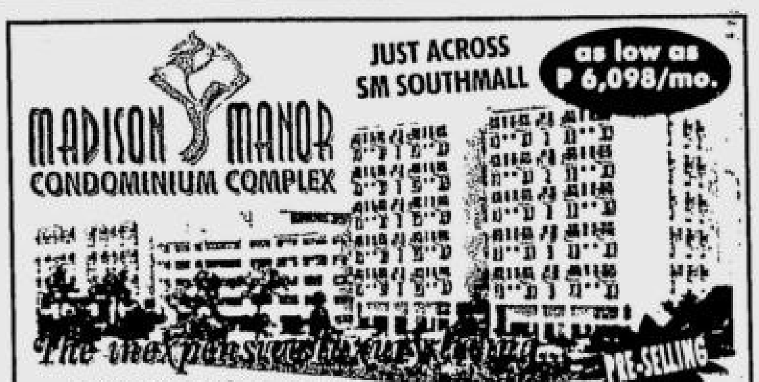

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US hit for hypocrisy over Newsweek, Koran

WASHINGTON—The US government, which has called Newsweek magazine to account over a discredited article alleging US soldiers desecrated the Koran at Guantanamo Bay military base that set off deadly violence, should try and clean up its own act, some politicians and US commentators say.

Critics remind the US administration of how it used imprecise information itself to justify the war in Iraq, pointing out what they see as unconvincing inquiries into other alleged abuses at Guantanamo and Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison where serious abuses of prisoners occurred last year.

The State Department called the Newsweek article "appalling" and liberally mentioned the "very major problem" caused to Washington in the Muslim world. The White House, after Newsweek said it was retracting the story, called on it to do something more.

Other US officials also referred to the story as "irresponsible" and "demonstrably false."

The article sparked anti-US protests in Afghanistan and other countries which left at least 14 people dead. Citing an unidentified US official, the article had claimed a probe into allegations of prisoner abuse at Guantanamo found interrogators had thrown a Koran into a toilet to upset Muslim prisoners.

Voices have criticized the Bush administration for trying to make political hay with the retraction, and suggest the administration has no good reason to be acting so virtuous.

"The pot is calling the kettle black," said Pete Stark, a Democratic Representative from California.

"The administration is chastising Newsweek magazine for a story containing a fact that turned out to be false. This is the same administration that lied to the Congress, the United Nations and the American people by fabricating reasons to send us to war."

"For the White House and the Pentagon to come down on Newsweek for making a mistake is the height of hypocrisy," wrote Washington Post columnist Richard Cohen.

"Where, just for starters is the retraction from (US Vice President) Dick Cheney, who said that Iraq had 'reconstituted' its nuclear weapon program?"

For its part, New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) warned that the row over the discredited story was serving to overshadow genuine incidents of religious humiliation.

Use of anonymous sources—called firmly into question now after the Newsweek article—is, meanwhile, still a practice broadly used by the Bush administration—when it plays to the administration's interests.

US officials call media conferences all the time, providing sources for their articles—often high ranking officials—with the proviso their names are not mentioned in the article.

The practice, journalists say, encourages the use of anonymous sources in articles.

The White House allowed innumerable anonymous officials to speak up for going to war against Saddam Hussein using the argument the ousted dictator had weapons of mass destruction. *AFP*

ISLAM BERSATU
MELAWAN AROGANSI - AS

INDONESIAN Muslims protest the alleged desecration of the Koran by US soldiers at Guantanamo Bay military base May 22. Hardliners vowed to wage war against the US and said those who desecrate the Koran should be killed. AFP

Karzai demands more say in US Army operations

KABUL, Afghanistan—Afghan leader Hamid Karzai—who was in the United States Sunday for meetings with US President George W. Bush—has demanded greater control over American military operations in Afghanistan and vigorous punishment of soldiers who mistreat prisoners.

He also said he wants the United States to hand over all Afghan prisoners still in US custody.

In a volatile southern province, meanwhile, a US soldier was killed and three were wounded in the latest in a string of attacks launched by loyalists of the ousted Taliban regime.

Speaking to reporters on Saturday before his first visit to the United States since he was installed in December as Afghanistan's first democratically elected president, Karzai demanded more say over operations by the 16,700 US troops still in the country, including an end to raids on the homes of Afghans unless his government was notified beforehand.

"No operations inside Afghanistan should take place without the consultation of the Afghan government," he told reporters.

Karzai—seen by his critics as an American puppet—issued the tough statement after fresh reports of prisoner abuse by American forces at Bagram, the main military prison north of Kabul, and anti-US riots that broke out across the country earlier this month, leaving at least 15 people dead.

The unrest was triggered by a Newsweek magazine report, later retracted, that the Koran was defiled by interrogators at the US prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and likely further fueled by long-standing complaints of heavy-handed search operations and the deaths of civilians in US operations in Afghanistan.

There were fears a report in Friday's New York Times, based on the Army's criminal investigation into the December 2002 deaths of two Afghans at Bagram, could re-ignite anti-American sentiment.

Karzai said he was "shocked" by allegations of prisoner abuse by poorly trained US soldiers at Bagram and vowed to raise the issue during his four-day US visit that begins Sunday.

"We want the US government to take very, very strong action to take away people like that (who) are working with their forces in Afghanistan," Karzai said. "Definitely ... I will see about that when I am in the United States."

Responding to the abuse allegations, Col. James Yonts, the US military spokesperson in Afghanistan, said: "The command has made it very clear that any incidents of abuse will not be tolerated."

In Washington, White House spokesperson Trent Duffy said the president was "alarmed by the reports of prisoner abuse," and wants them thoroughly investigated. Duffy said seven people were being investigated about abuse at Bagram. *AP*

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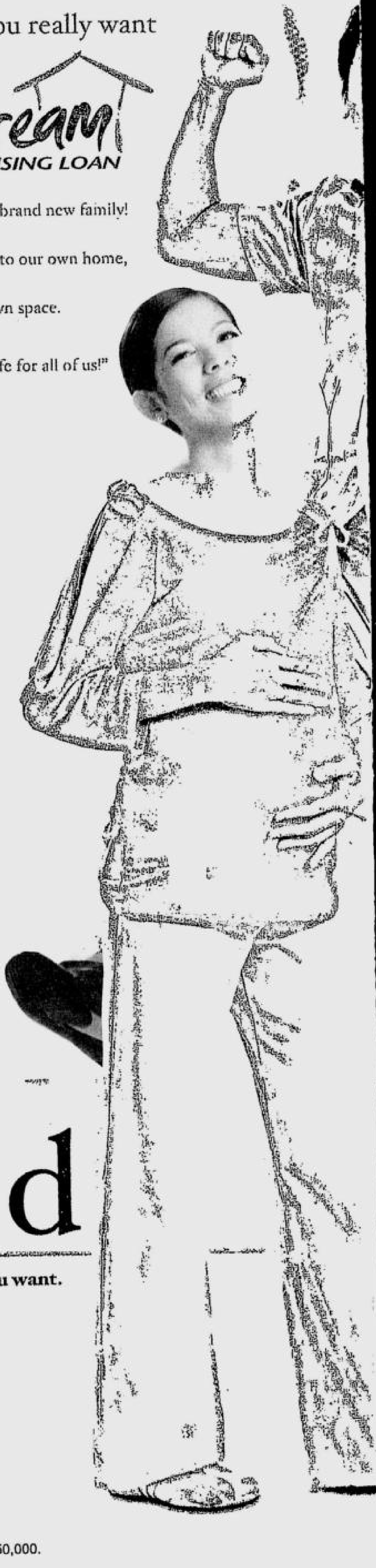

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45 Chile soldiers freeze to death in Andes blizzard

LOS ANGELES—Furious relatives of 45 soldiers feared frozen to death in the Chilean Andes raged at military officers on Saturday for leading dozens of ill-equipped teenage recruits into a blizzard.

Twenty-three bodies have been recovered from snow-bound Antuco volcano near the Argentine border and an estimated 22 soldiers were still missing when rescuers with snow plows and dogs ended their fourth day of searching.

Army officials told reporters they took seven bodies off the mountain late on Saturday.

"My son and his companions were abandoned by the officers.

They were coming down together in a group and people were falling. The officer just let 28 kids fall and went on to the shelter," sobbed Gloria Bastias, whose son Jonathan is one of those believed dead in the tragedy that struck on Wednesday.

Most of the victims are teenage recruits from poor families, who enlisted just a month ago and whose regiment went on a mountain training exercise without proper gear for an early-winter storm that blinded and disoriented the group.

"These are the heroes. The miserable villains are the officers that lived," Edmundo Vivanco, uncle of 18-year-old Guillermo Foncea, shouted at a wake with 13 flag-draped coffins at an army base in this city in southern Chile.

Army Commander in Chief Juan Cheyre also blamed the officers who led the soldiers on a march into danger instead of riding out the storm in a mountain shelter. There were no officers among the missing or the dead.

Local media said it was the worst peacetime military disaster ever in Chile.

"I've come to send a big hug from millions of Chileans who share your pain," President Ricardo Lagos told families at a religious service at the base. Earlier he declared three days of national mourning.

All four candidates running in this year's presidential election also attended the service.

While some families mourned or waited in agony for news, others were overjoyed when they were reunited with 112 soldiers and officers evacuated by helicopter from a mountain shelter where they had been trapped. *Reuters*

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HELLO, UNIVERSE! **Atetegeb Tesfaye Worku, Miss Ethiopia, poses in her swimsuit on Phi Phi Le Island in Thailand on May 19. The 54th annual Miss Universe competition will take place in Bangkok, Thailand, on May 31.** AP

WorldBriefs

Cannes film fest winners

CANNES, France—Belgian brothers Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne won the top prize at the Cannes Film Festival on Saturday with "L'Enfant," the story of a desperate delinquent who sells his newborn child for cash. It was the second time the duo have won the coveted "Palme d'Or" and comes six years after their success with "Rosetta." Hollywood star Tommy Lee Jones had a good festival, winning best actor for his portrayal of a hardened ranch foreman in "The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada," which was his directorial debut. The film also won best screenplay. "Broken Flowers," by American filmmaker Jim Jarmusch that stars Bill Murray and Sharon Stone, picked up the runners-up prize, the Grand Prix. The outright favorite had been "Cache" (Hidden), Michael Haneke's disturbing story of coming to terms with the past, both personal and national, which shocked audiences with one particularly gory scene. He won the best director category. *Reuters*

Conjoined twins separated

SINGAPORE—Two 15-month-old Indonesian twin girls joined at the waist and hip have been successfully separated after a 10-hour operation, doctors in Singapore said on Saturday. Anjeli and Anggi, who were born with three legs and shared intestines, are recovering after surgery was carried out in Singapore's downtown Gleneagles Hospital. "They are both in good shape. And remarkably so," said Edward Kiely, the lead surgeon of the 15-member surgical team. But he added that the girls were not out of danger. One of the twins also has heart problems. "This time next week, if there are no complications, I would say they are out of danger," he said. *Reuters*

Nokor ships sail to South

SEOUL—North Korea has sent three cargo vessels to South Korea for the first time in two decades to ship fertilizer aid back to the impoverished communist state, officials said Sunday. The unification ministry here said the North's ships crossed into South Korean waters overnight. They are due to return home on Wednesday with their consignments of fertilizer. It is the first time since 1984, when Pyongyang sent supplies of cement by ship to South Korea following a devastating typhoon, that Seoul has allowed ships from the North to dock at its ports. *AFP*

Bird flu alarm in China

BEIJING—China has ordered emergency measures to stop the spread of bird flu after discovering some migratory birds had died from the H5N1 virus, state media said Sunday. The Ministry of Agriculture announced Saturday that the deaths of migratory birds found in the western province of Qinghai were caused by bird flu, marking the first time the virus has been found in China since last year. The ministry has asked local governments to prohibit people from entering the habitats of migratory birds and to prevent contact between migratory birds and poultry, the Xinhua news agency said Sunday. According to China's national bird flu reference laboratory, the virus that had spread among birds in China is different from the virus detected in Southeast Asia, which is more deadly and possibly contains a gene for human contraction, Xinhua said. *AFP*

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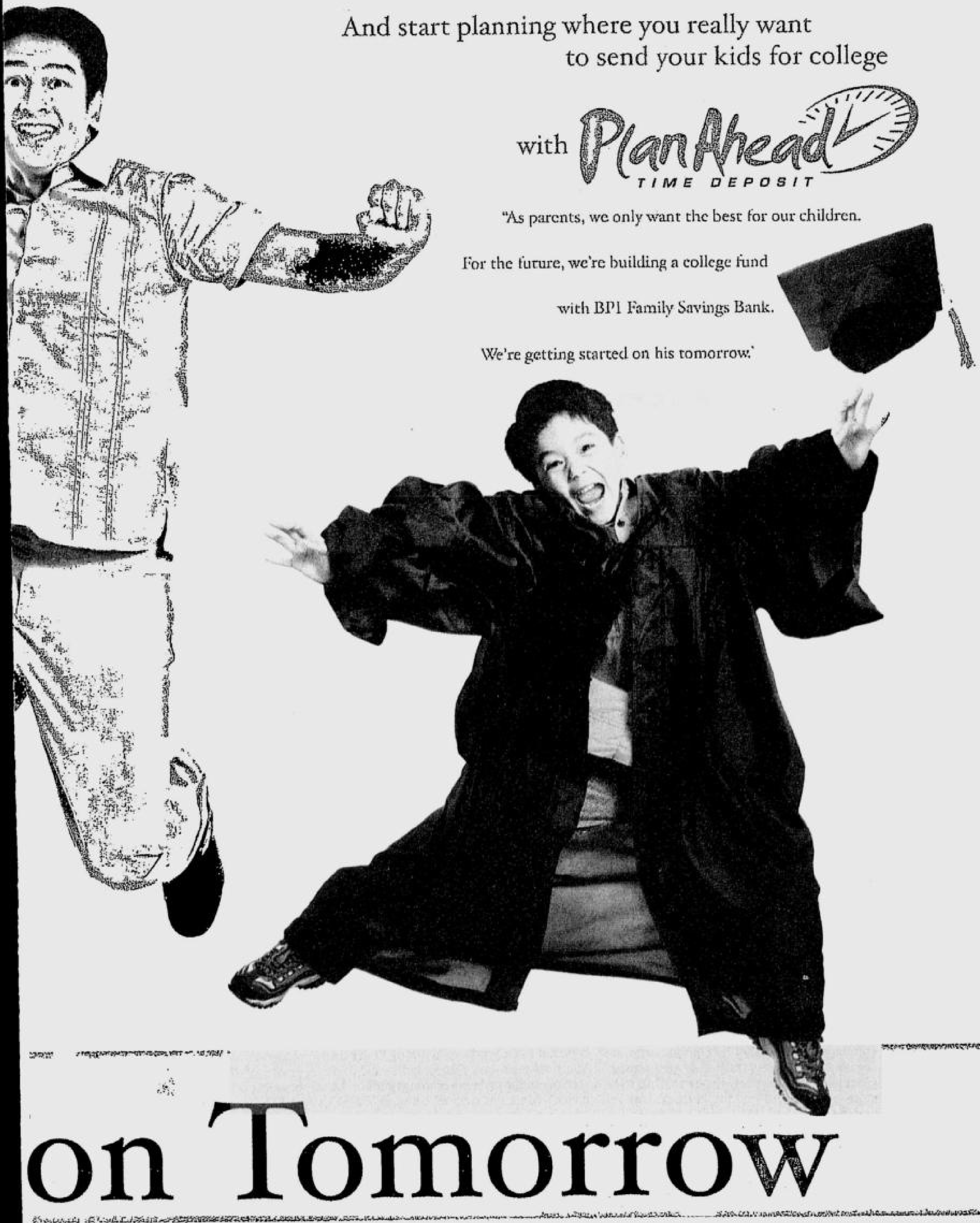

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Monster in 'Bora'

EDITORIAL

THAT it was Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano himself who sounded the alarm on the "critical" condition of Boracay indicates the gravity of the problems afflicting the "crown jewel of Philippine tourism." Only in July 1997, when then Environment Secretary Victor Ramos pronounced Boracay a "disaster case" because of the untrammeled discharge of untreated human and other wastes from beach resorts and households into the sea, the s--t hit the fan, and then Tourism Secretary Mina Gabor was quick to try to debunk him. In her relentless efforts to perform damage control (thereby preserve the burgeoning business generated by the world-famous island), she went so far as to be photographed swimming in the waters declared unsafe because of the high levels of disease-causing coliform microorganisms. (Within a week, the environment secretary had apologized to Gabor and to then President Fidel Ramos, and "clarified" that he had based his declaration on old findings.)

Now, apart from bucking Durano's declared moratorium on development activities, no one is contesting his announcement that not only coliform from raw sewage but also overpopulation, congestion and a mountain of garbage are threatening the romping ground of European backpackers, Japanese honeymooners, the local *chi-chi* set, bikini contestants, and your regular vacationers out on a gimmick. Indeed, the situation is a stunning example of small snags suddenly emerging full-blown—the perils of unregulated development coming home to roost.

But from reports, government officials and assorted stakeholders are not even in agreement over where the buck stops. Karen Reina of the Boracay Chamber of Commerce and Industry pithily described the island as "bursting at the seams." She said, however, that it was not as though she and her colleagues did not see it coming. They had warned of the possible dangers of the "construction frenzy" for the last 15 years, she said, except that they had been portrayed as "alarmist," as "crying wolf." On the other hand, the Philippine Tourism Authority's Robert Dean Barbers said compliance was the thing. He said the PTA and the Department of Tourism should be given "more teeth" to help the local government enforce the master development plan. And Malay Mayor Ceciron Cawaling could only whine: "We get blamed for the problems here!"

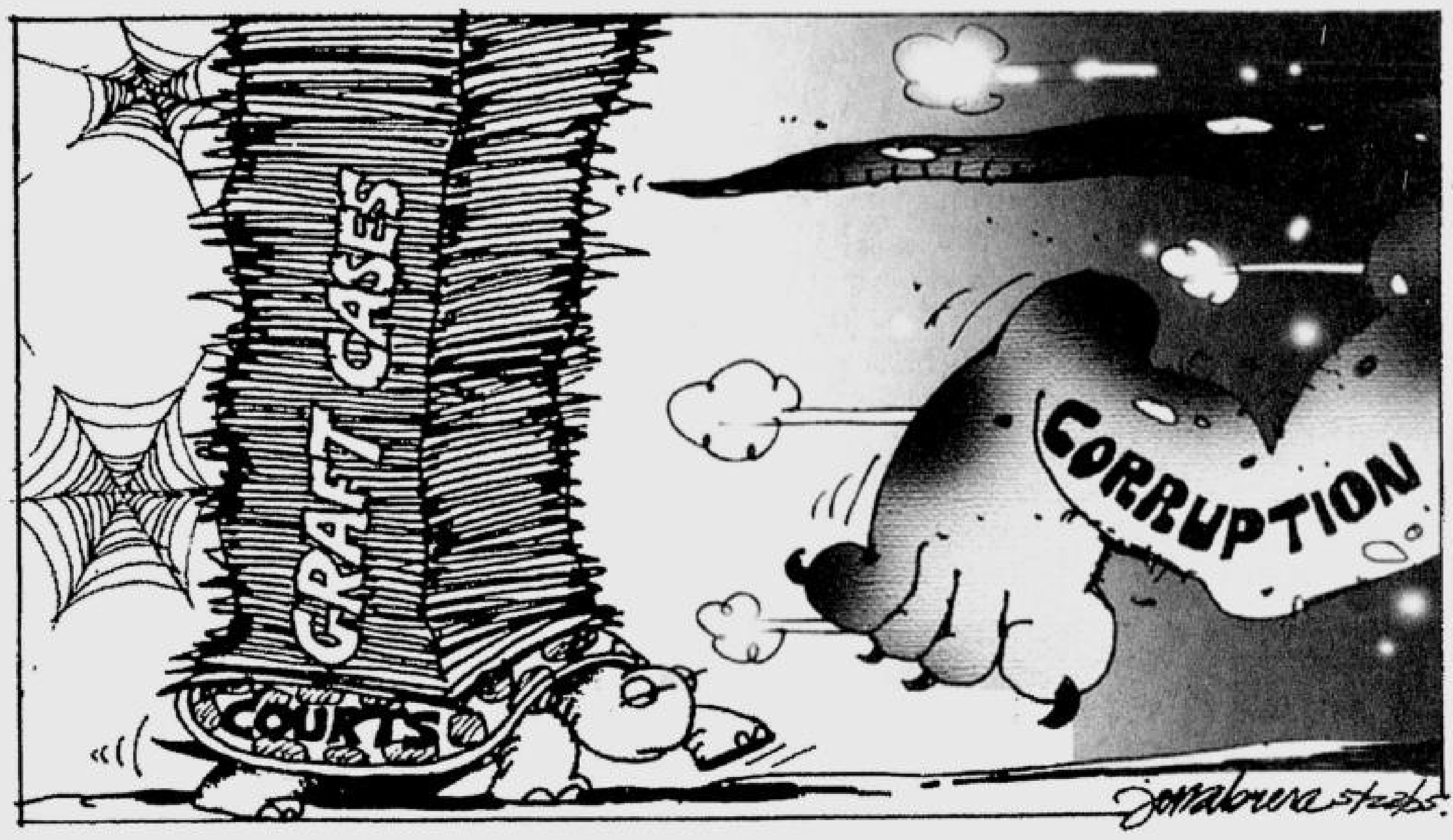
In short, no one is willing to claim paternity of the monster that sprang from the emerald waters and now sits grunting and slavering on the powder-fine white sands. The frightening idea of a sewage-polluted water supply (think typhoid and cholera, among other nasty things), the haphazard construction of trade establishments, the covering of a freshwater creek to give way for more commercial facilities, the 50-foot wall of garbage that grows by the day and bids fair to tip over and crash onto the bronzed bods lolling on the beach… It's the story of our lives.

But the island of Boracay has been acknowledged as having one of the best 10 beaches on the planet! For that alone, for its unquestioned beauty—and yes, for the revenues it has contributed to the national coffers—the government, in partnership with other stakeholders, has the clear obligation to exercise strict and efficient management.

That means strong political will to enforce compliance with the Boracay master development plan, to commit and infuse the necessary funds for its upkeep as prime tourist destination, and to ensure that it will remain as it is: a national treasure and, by law, a public domain.

That means cracking down hard on violators of building requirements and imposing appropriate punishment; building roads; setting up and strictly enforcing a solid waste management system; enforcing subscription among resorts, hotels and other establishments to the existing water and sewage treatment plant; and desisting from issuing individual land titles to resort owners.

Let's not forget that as much as the tourists, the people of Boracay require attention. As anywhere else in this archipelago of underdevelopment, the government should set up infrastructure to benefit the residents—and, because of the island's special qualities, establish schools and centers to train them for employment in the tourism establishments. Thus can the image of "Bora" as a perpetual orgy of pleasure in the midst of poverty begin to be wiped out.



How much did wealthy solons pay in taxes?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ALL RIGHT, now we know who the multimillionaire congressmen are. Wouldn't it be interesting to know how much each of them paid in income tax? How much did Rep. Cynthia Villar, the richest representative for several years running (net worth last year: P620.7 million, no liabilities), pay in personal income tax? How much did the two Arroyos (second richest Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, alias Jose Pidal; and presidential son Rep. Mikey Arroyo, the 18th richest) each pay in taxes?

Will the Bureau of Internal Revenue please publish the personal income taxes paid by members of Congress, Cabinet members and other highly-paid public officials, including officials of government-owned and -controlled corporations? It is only fair to the other taxpayers, especially the movie stars who are now the focus of attention as "tax evaders." Actually, they just did not pay the right amount of income tax. Did our richest congressmen pay the right income taxes?

It is routine for many public officials, especially members of Congress, to inflate their assets so that their net worth won't jump after a few years in public office. So easy to do that if you are not paying taxes in the right proportion to your assets. The BIR should know if they are paying the correct taxes by comparing their assets to the taxes they paid.

And since the government is conducting lifestyle checks on other public officials, and filing charges against those whose assets are not proportionate to their incomes, it is only fair that the BIR look into how the congressmen acquired their assets. How did Iggy Arroyo, for example, acquire the P300 million in the Jose Pidal account? He said he inherited it from his mother. Did he pay any inheritance tax? Is there any will giving him that inheritance? Did his other siblings also get similar inheritance? Did his brother Mike also inherit something? If not, why not?

How did Mikey acquire his P76.5-million assets? As vice governor of Pampanga? As movie actor? It should be easy to check. And it is only fair to check the way the BIR is checking the incomes of other actors and actresses.

* * *

Speaking of the rich, a 14-foot snake was caught in the enclave of the super rich, Forbes Park, after it ate a pet dog in a children's school. It is the sixth and the longest snake so far caught in millionaire's row since January. If you will recall, two big snakes were also caught separately in Malacañang sometime ago. Well, it is an admitted fact that there are many snakes in the enclaves of the rich and the powerful. Isn't Malacañang called the snake pit?

And still on the subject of reptiles, don't people say that crocodiles abound in Congress? Not only crocodiles but also chameleons, those reptiles that change colors at their convenience. And bats, too, neither here nor there, and political butterflies that flit from party to party.

Some people believe that so many snakes coming out at this time is a foreboding of bad luck to come. Well, we have had many snakes for a long time already, and we keep having bad luck because we keep electing the same brand of politicians every election year.

* * *

Traffic on MacArthur Highway has turned terrible since the toll rates were raised at the North Luzon Expressway. Many vehicles have shifted to using MacArthur to avoid paying NLEX's sky-high toll. The Department of Public Works and Highways chose this time to widen MacArthur, so you can imagine the bedlam.

But can't the government ask the Lopezes to roll back the toll rates at the NLEX while Macarthur is being widened? Vehicles will return to NLEX and the Lopezes will earn more from the volume of vehicles, if not from the high rates. Best of all, it will lessen the traffic on MacArthur while work is going on. Once the widening is finished, NLEX can raise its toll rates again.

* * *

Still on MacArthur, I mentioned here last week the 100 blooming fire trees that the DPWH wants to cut to give way to the road-widening. Environmentalists are naturally in an uproar. Why cut such beautiful creations of God when the DPWH can widen the highway and still save the trees? Make the rows of trees serve as "islands" and widen the street on the other side.

That was how the row of mahogany trees on Quezon Avenue was saved when the avenue was widened. And that is what is going to be done to save the centuries-old acacia trees at the back of the UP Diliman campus when Katipunan Avenue is widened into C-5. The streets are more beautiful and much safer with the trees there. Streets, and especially highways, become more beautiful and more pleasant and relaxing to drive on when they are lined with trees.

If the DPWH still wants to remove them, ball them and transplant them along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City. Add more fire trees and plant acacia seedlings between them. Both are fast growing trees. Plant them beside the avenue with wide sidewalks behind the line of trees to shield pedestrians, joggers and bikers from vehicles. In five years, the sidewalks would be shady and the fire trees would start to bloom.

Can you imagine how beautiful Commonwealth Avenue will be with two rows of fire trees in bloom from the Quezon Memorial Circle to the La Mesa Park? Wide shady sidewalks will encourage people to walk instead of riding, thus ease traffic and save fuel. What's more, office-goers from Fairview can bike on the shady bike lanes to the Quezon Avenue station of Metrorail when going to Makati and beyond.

And because trees protect the sidewalk, vehicles can't use it for parking. Sidewalk vendors can't appropriate it for themselves because pedestrians, joggers and bikers will be using it constantly.

Impeach her

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE ONLY thing we can safely say at this point is that Mike Defensor is not likely to be able to "rescue" the witnesses linking the First Family to *jueteng* operations in this country. There are just too many of them, and even with the abundant resources of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the financial backing of the logging lords (who must be very pleased with the way DENR is currently doing business), he can't get to all of them. Besides, only hungry cats go out to do desperate things.

I don't know that a Senate inquiry will ever be able to ferret out the truth about Mike and Mikey Arroyo's and (unless she is too busy to know what her husband and son are doing) Gloria Arroyo's involvement in the jueteng operations of this country. Senate inquiries are not normally given to truth, they are normally given to power. The party in power tends to be more dedicated to burying corpses than exhuming them.

But I'm all for a Senate inquiry nonetheless because it tends to have a life of its own, independently of how its members want it to be, especially under the glare of television. Who knows? Maybe, a Senate inquiry on the possible complicity of the First Family in *jueteng* in this country will become the new blockbuster, the way Erap's impeachment trial was in the past. The latter became the biggest thing on TV then, beating the most popular *telenovelas* by a mile. It was so addictive, offices ground to a halt in the afternoons when much of the drama took place, the witnesses coming out amid hostile fire to damn the damnable.

Those things tend to educate, apart from stoking outrage, and bringing the public into the fray. Maybe that's what we need to jolt us from our current bovine indifference or resignation to epic iniquity.

But whether or not a Senate inquiry will discover the Byzantine routes through which *jueteng* money winds on the way to the top, I don't know why somebody in Congress shouldn't act to impeach the President at this very moment. Whether or not it can be proven that Mike Arroyo is the new godfather of *jueteng*—and if he is, he can't be doing it under her nose without her knowledge and consent—I don't know that we don't have more than enough basis right now to end the current reign of greed. For the simple fact remains that *jueteng* continues to riot in this country. Indeed, if Archbishop Oscar Cruz is to be believed, it's worse now than during Erap's time. "During Erap's time, *jueteng* lords were told to stop operations whenever things got hot. Now *jueteng* continues despite being in the news and despite the pending *jueteng* investigation in the Senate."

Moreover, the fact is that *jueteng* riots most of all in the home province of the President, which is Pampanga. It's the "Vatican of *jueteng*," Aquilino Pimentel quite colorfully put it. Quite accurately too if only because *jueteng* is carried out there now with something akin to religious fervor. You can't find better proof of it than that the Catholic clergy there is not denying it flourishes like a plague, it is denying only that it is a beneficiary of it.

Pampanga Archbishop Paciano Aniceto even issued a letter to priests spelling out his policy concerning donations to the Church from *jueteng*: "When you are sent donations by *jueteng* operators, don't insult them. Thank them but tell them, 'We were advised by our archbishop that it is not right for us to accept donations coming from the game.' What that reveals is far less than the Church in Pampanga has now cleansed its ranks but that the province of Pampanga has now turned into a numbers-racketeers' paradise.

That was what we booted Erap for, because he was turning the entire country into a gangsters' paradise, *jueteng* being its crowning jewel. That was what we mounted an Edsa for, so that we could wipe out the festering sore of immorality—which had nothing to do with the fact that Erap had many partners in bed; the problem was that he had many partners in crime—which was threatening to contaminate the nation. That was what we put GMA there for, so that she would undo the things her predecessor had done, or at least strive mightily to do.

If only for the fact that she has not stopped *jueteng* in the country—the one thing we demanded of her in her gratuitous rise to the presidency, her sole moral justification for governing—she ought to be derided for being a charlatan. If only for the fact that she has not stopped *jueteng* in her very own province—though Pampangueños themselves have been known to disown her, saying the Makabebes themselves are truer to their word—she ought to be scorned for being a fraud. But for making *jueteng* worse now than during Erap's time, she ought to be kicked out the door by sovereign will, or boot.

That is quite apart from evidence that would link her or her family to the racket. The fact alone that *jueteng* has thrived during her rule, by accident or design, is reason enough to end that rule.

The other Arroyo, the more serious one named Joker, used the phrase "betrayal of public trust" to justify Erap's impeachment, notwithstanding that Erap enjoyed an overwhelming mandate from the voters. You cannot find a more ironclad case of betrayal of public trust than today, and from someone whose mandate from the voters not only is not huge but is not patent at all. Should Archbishop Cruz be surprised that "*jueteng* continues despite being in the news," when this country's journalists continue to be murdered despite being in the news? Indeed, despite the world's harshest condemnations of it? It's a middle finger thrust at us, or as the Tagalog puts it, "*garapalan na*." It's more than a betrayal of public trust, it's betrayal of everything we hold sacred.

Save us. Impeach her.

Safari shows off glory of God's creation

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

KRUGER National Park, South Africa—A safari is really an experience of a lifetime and nothing can quite compare with it. It can be quite frustrating when one drives around at 30 to 50 km/hour all morning and finds no game animals other than the seemingly inexhaustible impalas, albeit lovely as they are.

One lesson a safari teaches is patience—one has to have plenty of it. For a safari is not like being in a zoo where the animals are locked in; here they are in the wild, and they wander around as they please. Thus, one day one finds nothing much and it can be quite frustrating. But the next day they could suddenly be all there. A safari is really a game of chance and every bit of it offers excitement and satisfaction.

Another lesson the safari teaches is prudence. Driving in an area with ferocious predators around teaches one to be prepared, e.g., have enough fuel and a vehicle in A-1 condition as trouble can get you stuck,. It's a no-no to venture outside one's vehicle—a lion camouflaged in the grass could suddenly spring at you. Camp rangers can bail you out, but this is heaven knows when. Besides, some areas have no cell signals.

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Our first full day in Kruger National Park (KNP) was quite uneventful. True, we saw two lions sunning themselves on a rock, but they were a little distant and we had to use binoculars on them. We knew that spotting lions could be difficult, and at times some people leave without ever seeing one. But soon after we hit the trail next morning, lo and behold, we came upon three male lions right by the roadside. Two sat lazily by the bushes about 20 meters from us. But the third one, which was really huge, was just two feet away from us. In fact, he stood up and peered by our closed car window but, probably, didn't see us through the tint. Then he sat by the road, watching the cars park; a butterfly landed on his nose and he snapped at it just like you see on those old "MGM" films, revealing his great huge fangs. I held my breath in fear, but also feeling in awe of this king of the animal kingdom. Nothing can excite those feelings in humans better than a lion.

Pretty soon word got around about the lions. Thus, after a while, a good number of cars had piled up on the roadside, watching the lions' show. Like us, they doubtless felt both fear and awe.

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After a while, the big lion crossed the road to the other side of the field where a big herd of wildebeests (strange-looking beasts that seem to be a cross between the African buffalo and the horse) were feeding. The two other lions also began moving toward that direction and by then all the safari folks, watching from their cars, were truly excited. Everyone expected the lions to go after a wildebeest as it was near their lunchtime. (In the wild, the beasts have to hunt for prey—unlike in a zoo—and it's really the survival of the fittest.) The wildebeests sensed the lions' presence and began to look very tense; so were all the spectators as we waited with our movie camera. But the lions tarried and one eventually lay on the grass. The herd of prey moved on. Buddy felt sorry he missed a chance to land a blow-by-blow for Discovery Channel or National Geographic.

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In the afternoon, as the sun cooled down, we ran into a huge African bull elephant who put up a beautiful show for us. He was taking a leisurely drink with his long snout, in the process playing with the water. Further up the trail, we saw another huge elephant sauntering lazily down, blocking the trail so that the cars behind had no choice but to wait. Slowly the king of the road ventured to the bushes, and opened up for us a new vista: a whole herd of adult elephants, seven of them, so big that, grouped together, they looked like little hills. Truly an awesome sight. Thanks to Walt Disney, the world thinks all elephants are as cuddly and cute as Dumbo, but the guidebooks always warn that once agitated they could really harm people. The thought that those seven huge mammals could easily crush our tiny rented Toyota kept us ever so silent as we shot photos of them.

That afternoon we also ran into many very tall giraffes picking leaf shoots for merienda; and a large herd of zebras crossing the road. There were also so many bird varieties I have never seen before.

Ironically, what we failed to see among KNP's "big five" was the African buffalo, which is far bigger than our carabao. As if God was saying that if I gave you a whole show put up by the lions and elephants, then you can afford to miss the cousin of your carabao.

The safari also makes one realize the glory of God's creation, what a great designer He is.

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I understand that there are private game reserves in various countries of Africa that cater to the rich and famous who are ready to spend oodles of money (one of them was Tiger Woods). But for the majority of safari folks, South Africa's KNP is good value-for-money, especially if they do the driving themselves (not joining tours) and bring their own food—mainly barbecues in the great South African tradition of the *braii* (which is nothing but our *ihaw-ihaw*), washed down with the many wines South Africa has been producing for the past 300 years.

KNP is big enough to accommodate the size of Israel, but it's well laid out; the 23 camp sites spread out all over KNP provide clean and comfortable lodges complete with hot and cold water and kitchen facilities. Each lodge is equipped with the ubiquitous gas barbecue pit. There are also strategic rest areas where the toilets are quite clean and are supplied with soap, hot water and toilet paper. Moreover, the road network is, as in all of South Africa, truly first-world.

Yearning for British colonialism

COMMENTARY

Isabel T. Escoda

WHEN Hong Kong's major English-language newspaper, the South China Morning Post, recently ran a news item headlined "Survey shows one in three Filipinos go hungry," my neighbor Lorna (not her real name), with whom I have occasional conversations about the situation back home, turned apoplectic.

"*Ay naku! Ano bang pag-asa para sa bayang iyan*! (My goodness! What hope is there for that benighted country!")

Lorna and I have many opportunities to converse, living as we do on one of Hong Kong's outlying islands. A number of non-Chinese live on these islands, mainly for the relatively lower rents and the slightly better air quality, and also for a more pleasant ambience than that in the territory's concrete jungles. Our residential village used to be a farmland for grazing and piggeries, but over the years landowners started building three-story flats because of the demand by Hong Kongers for weekend holiday homes as an escape from cramped city flats.

The ferry trips to town and back have provided me and our other resident *kababayans* with opportunities to chat and make *tsismis*. Last year during the Philippine presidential elections, Lorna fulminated about the futility of such exercises. "What use is having elections when it's always crooks who get elected or re-elected to office? The country hasn't changed in all the years we've been having elections, so what's the good? People still go hungry and have to work abroad, like I had to do when I first came here 15 years ago!" (She is now married to a well-off Western businessman.)

"Well," I tried to find excuses, "it's not easy governing an archipelago like ours beset by tribal attitudes, typhoons and other natural disasters." She retorted, "The worse disasters are our politicians! That's because our form of government is all *kanya-kanya*! (to each his own)."

I had to admit that she had a point, and she declared, "I'm convinced that what the Philippines needs is to be colonized by the British!"

I tried not to laugh and exclaimed. "You're not serious!"

She assured me she was serious. "Just look at Hong Kong. Things run smoothly here—the government looks after its citizens, people are disciplined, traffic moves, police are honest, no one goes hungry. That's because it was a British colony! Our problem is that the Americans gave us too much freedom—as well as their form of government which is all wrong for people like us."

So I asked if she agreed with the maxim Marcos used during martial law: "*Disiplina ang kailangan*." "Haven't we been down that road before?" I asked. "Surely we've learned our lesson after that disaster!"

"I'm not talking about dictatorship," Lorna explained. "British colonialism is about establishing an efficient civil service, nurturing the growth of the middle class, and setting up social services to benefit the general population. Which Pinoy politician sets out doing these things? Instead they dish out money to get elected, then sit in Congress and their offices collecting bribes and stashing their fortunes abroad. There's no sense of public service among Pinoy politicians, unlike here!"

That reminded me of a recent report about Britain's chancellor of the exchequer having declared that Britain no longer needs to apologize for its colonial history, because there is much to celebrate about the country's achievements. Gordon Brown had told the BBC, "If we look at the whole span of history, it's time to emphasize that (British values are) at the core of our history and of what people think most when they think of 'Britishness.'"

Someone with a mind-set similar to Lorna's, a Hong Kong taxi-driver, who was interviewed by a South China Morning Post reporter, declared "I still miss British rule...I do hope Mr. Donald Tsang (the upcoming chief executive) will make good use of the valuable experience he gained from British rule before the hand over..."

I tried to point out to Lorna that British colonialism had a checkered record in other countries like India and Africa. But she wouldn't listen. "What a poor country like ours needs are the things the British did in their colonies—roads, schools and hospitals, an honest police force and jobs. That's why we should ask them to take over the Philippines!"

"Nowadays," I remarked, "no one asks a country to take over another one—such a suggestion would just be laughed at."

"They should come to Hong Kong, then they won't laugh," she retorted. "Just think of all the Pinoys who've found work here (not just as maids) and who've been able to take advantage of the terrific medical care. One of our consulate officials had a liver transplant that hardly cost him anything in the government hospital, and my friend Marisa, who had a complicated childbirth, wouldn't have survived if she had delivered in Isabela province—they flew her by helicopter from Lantau to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Kowloon and she didn't pay anything. Do these things happen at home? Not in your dreams! *Sayang talaga* (It's a pity) that it wasn't the British who colonized us!"

That made me think of the brief period from 1762 to 1764 when British Rear Admiral Samuel Cornish and Brigadier General William Draper sailed into Manila Bay and took over the city from the Spaniards. The late Jesuit historian Horacio dela Costa has a passage in one of his books about a certain Captain Thomas Backhouse writing that "the people flocked to His Majesty's standards in great numbers, were soon sensible of the many advantages they enjoyed, and seemed happy..."

Perhaps, Lorna's forebears were among those who welcomed the British invaders.

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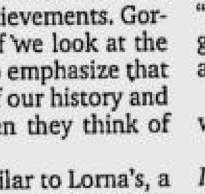
Isabel T. Escoda has written about Filipinos in Hong Kong in her books, "Letters from Hong Kong," "Hong Kong Postscript," and "Pinoy Abroad," her latest.

New allies for veterans

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III



WASHINGTON D.C.—At the Philippine Embassy ceremony honoring the Frieder brothers and those who brought the story of Filipino-Jewish solidarity in the face of Nazi persecution, I took the liberty of making an appeal to the American Jewish community to support Filipino veterans in their over half a century campaign to obtain the benefits due them. The world has already commemorated the 60th anniversary of the victory of the Allied forces in Europe, and it will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of victory in Asia. But for Filipino veterans of World War II, the goal of receiving what Franklin D. Roosevelt promised—the full rights and benefits enjoyed by all those who served under the American flag—remains elusive.

The Frieder family and all the Jewish-Americans present were shocked and ashamed of this fact; they instantly pledged to do all they could to lobby their government on behalf of Filipino veterans. When I explained to them the long, and tragic story of how the US Congress had passed the Recession Act, depriving Filipino veterans of their benefits, they were outraged. Instead of a purely celebratory dinner after the ceremony, they began a series of huddles to draw up strategies for helping our veterans.

Rabbi Alfred Gottschalk, who fled Nazi Germany as a young boy, and thus remembers what Nazi persecution was like up close, recounted to me how he spent the war years in America making speeches to raise funds for war bonds. The struggle against fascism, he said, was not only a mighty one, but one which was made possible only through the sacrifices of people around the world—including the Filipino people. The Filipinos, he told me soberly, not only protested Nazism, but welcomed refugees, and then gave their lives to fight Japanese aggression. The Jewish people, he said, have a moral obligation to stand up "for such an outstanding people." He said Jewish organizations—from the Jewish Veterans of America, the Jewish Disabled Veterans of America, to Jewish schools and individual synagogues—would begin planning to use their considerable influence to speak up for Filipino veterans.

The Frieders themselves said that they would take it as a solemn obligation to work for Filipino veterans, a sentiment echoed by other Jews at the ceremony, who said that a country that had given so much and expected so little couldn't be allowed to continue to be deprived of something so basic as veteran's benefits. One of the younger Frieders, Peggy Ellis, is a professional lobbyist; she said she would devote her talents to helping the cause; another, Sara Roberts, legislative director for a prominent US senator, said she would bring the matter to her boss' attention. The Frieders are evenly divided among Republicans and Democrats, and as one said they would cross party lines in this common effort.

Representatives of Filipino veterans' groups began discussions with American Jews, who indicated that they would also enlist veterans' organizations in Israel itself. Again and again, Jewish-Americans kept telling the Filipinos they talked to that night that the cause of the Filipino veterans was now their cause; the plight of Filipino veterans and their families, their plight; and that their concern would only grow and their efforts increase as more and more Jews become involved.

In a sense, the reaction of the Jewish-Americans was very Filipino: their empathy was tremendous. The only difference might be that the American Jews are quite adept at lobbying and finding ways to bring issues to the attention of lawmakers, and since they form a well-organized and determined voting sector, their views and opinions are listened to by the powers-that-be. Filipinos have yet to enjoy the same amount of clout because of the disunity that tends to plague Filipinos abroad.

The Philippine Embassy in Washington stands between two small streets—Bataan and Corregidor Streets—and it faces the old embassy, which was the capital of the Philippines (because the legitimate government was in exile) from 1942-44. I pointed this out to those present; and I reminded them that while the world had, in so many ways, moved forward in the sixty years since the concentration camps were liberated, and Nazism was destroyed, and even Japanese fascism defeated, the world has barely moved forward at all for our veterans.

The road will still be long and hard, as far as securing the benefits due to our veterans is concerned. But there is something gratifying, and encouraging, in the fact that now the Filipino people and our veterans have a determined, and sincere, ally in the campaign to redress 60 years of injustice. The Filipino people and Jews the world over are committed as one to our brave soldiers and their families who fought for country and the Allied cause.

'Zamboanga Hermosa'

COMMENTARY

Junefe G. Payot
Institute on Church and Social Issues

WHILE waiting for the plane back to Manila at the Zamboanga International Airport, I happened to sit next to Akbayan Party-list Rep. Mario Aguja. Because I easily get star-struck, I stuttered as I introduced myself. I told him that we had met before, at the second meeting of the Millenium Development Goals (MDG) Localization Program in the Science City of Muñoz. One of the MDGs is the reduction of the slum population in cities, which is what many NGOs like us have been working for all these years.

I learned that the good representative just came from Tawi-Tawi where he had gone to attend to the grievances of some public school teachers. I was happy to know that at least this congressman was doing his job. We also talked about Japan where we both studied.

Then remembering that Akbayan has been actively campaigning for the humane relocation of families affected by the North Rail rehabilitation project, I asked him if he knew what was happening in the South Rail. He said that more families are to be affected in the South than in the North, and that, if he is not mistaken, the only existing relocation site for them—the one in the National Bilibid Prisons Reserve—can accommodate less than half of the families that will be affected. I was not surprised at all. The government is always ill-prepared whenever it undertakes relocation projects.

I dread the thought that the families along the South Rail tracks will follow the sorry fate of those affected by earlier government projects.

Then I thought about how lucky are the 300 families of Katilingban and Kalinaw housing projects in Zamboanga City, which I visited for documentation purposes. The two are relocation projects undertaken by the Katilingaban Para sa Kalambuan (Society for Progress), an NGO, with financial help from the Cooperacion Internacional of the Spanish government.

The city, in spite of its many dainty appellations like "Zamboanga Hermosa" (Beautiful Zamboanga) and "Orgullo de Mindanao" (Pride of Mindanao), has about 300,000 informal settlers. The city government has relocated some of them, especially those who were affected by infrastructure projects designed to bring economic development to Zamboanga, which is one of the key cities in the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area.

Not unexpectedly, these relocations (not the Katilingban and Kalinaw housing projects) were done ineptly. In one case, the government did not secure a road right-of-way before relocation, so the relocated families could not have access to electricity for many years. And until now they have to buy water from outside at four times the normal price. Also, the terms of payment remain unclear, and so people continue to live in the relocation sites with a sense of insecurity. Proof of this is the continued use of light housing materials by many families, as if to indicate their readiness to be removed from the place. The city touts these relocation projects as a major achievement; in fact, what has been achieved was merely the transfer of the slums from one site to another.

Compare this to the Katilingban and Kalinaw housing projects where former informal settler families—Muslims and Christians alike—now live in concrete houses with access to water and electricity, and where the roads are wide and the drainage is working. Also, the terms of payment are very clear so the people feel secure now. On top of these, there are livelihood and health care programs. A production center, which will provide livelihood to the families, is being built with help from the Japanese government.

Moreover, the people feel a sense of pride in and ownership of the houses because they themselves built them. Each family was given a loan in the form of housing materials to build the foundations of the house, the septic tank and the roof. The rest they had to provide for themselves. According to one resident, "*Basta naay atop og kasilyas, mahimo na puyan*." (As long as there's a roof and a toilet, we can live in it)!

Katilingban Para sa Kalambuan did not provide the materials for the walls because it wanted the people to give their counterpart. Besides, the Katilingban staff expected most of them to use the light materials that they could salvage from their old houses in the slums. To their surprise, the people used hollow blocks, a testament to their newfound security. They used the best materials because they know it is already their land and house.

How did they learn how to build their own houses? Simple. They were given carpentry lessons before being relocated as part of the social preparation. Aside from carpentry, each family also had to attend sessions on understanding human behavior, responsible parenthood, solid waste management, culture of peace and gender sensitivity.

And here we see the importance of social preparation, which is hardly considered in government-initiated relocation undertakings. Social preparation spells the difference between being able to build new communities and merely transferring slums. Thus, in the Katilingban and Kalinaw housing projects, we see the MDG localization at work—sans local government help.

It's truly amazing to see these two new communities. And to think that the NGO which undertook this did not have any previous experience in housing at all! All it had was a sincere desire and the generosity of the staff of the Center for Peace and Development of the Western Mindanao State University (which prepared the project proposal and provided the resource persons for the social preparation sessions for free) to help the poor. And here we see another special feature of these projects—they are products of partnerships. The government can learn a lot from them.

Upon returning to Manila, I was asked by a friend if Zamboanga City was scary. I wanted to say yes, not because of the reported terrorist threats but because of the eviction threats to hundreds of thousands of urban poor there. But the national picture is like that, so I said no. Besides, I know of a truly "*hermosa*" place there, where three hundred families are now living peacefully.

THEY SAID

Bridged faiths

"I assure you that the Church wants to continue building bridges of friendship with the followers of all religions, in order to seek the true good of every person and of society as a whole."

—Pope Benedict XVI on the members of the Muslim community

Polarized church

"If he continues as pope the way he was as a cardinal, I think we will see a polarized Church."

—Former Vatican radio reporter David Gibson on newly elected Pope Benedict XVI

Definition of fake drugs

WE read with interest Neal Cruz's column on the problem of counterfeit drugs ("Counterfeit medicines are not fake," PDI, 5/12/05) Counterfeit medicines are a serious threat to the health of the Philippine people, and we welcome the attention Cruz has drawn to this matter. However, he misled the readers when he wrote that the World Health Organization defines as "fakes" any medicine sold in a country but not manufactured there. This is not the case, and to say so seriously distorts our position. WHO has said that counterfeit medicine is often distributed across national boundaries, but that does not mean that we view all imported drugs as fakes.

The accusation that WHO sabotages the Philippine government's policy on importing cheap generic medicines springs from the misrepresentation of our position, and is groundless. For years, WHO has advocated the availability of good-quality, cheap generic drugs and has worked with member-countries on this issue.

For the record, WHO defines counterfeit medicine as being "deliberately and fraudulently mislabeled with respect to identity and/or source." This can include mislabeling (including fudging the expiry date), or products with no active ingredients, a wrong active ingredient, or the correct ingredient in insufficient quantity. Counterfeiting can apply to both branded and generic products.

—DR. BUDIONO SANTOSO,
Regional Adviser
in Pharmaceuticals,
World Health Organization,
Western Pacific Region

Shocked, dismayed at news about Pacific Plans woes

I AM currently working and staying overseas with my family. Owing to the uncertainties of living abroad as a contract worker, my husband and I decided to invest part of our savings in the Pacific Plans for our children's future. My husband is also a part-time agent for the Pacific Plans. He had put so much trust and confidence in the Yuchengco companies.

We have been paying religiously for our kids' educational plans without any delay. We have even been encouraging our fellow contract workers here in Brunei to get educational plans for their kids for a secure future. We were thus shocked and dismayed to hear that the pre-need industry in the Philippines has run into a crisis. All the while, we have been left in the dark without anyone from the Pacific Plans explaining or informing us of what's going on. If such thing is happening to a big and long-running company, how can you expect the Filipinos to invest their hard-earned money in our country? Is there no more hope for the Philippines? Can the government not intervene in this problem? It is not Yuchengco who will be suffering, but the many Filipinos, including children, who trusted Pacific Plans to help them ensure a brighter future.

—MARIA THERESA
MONTEMAYOR,
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Fresh faces, old politics

I READ with interest the INQUIRER editorial titled "Substitution" (PDI, 5/17/05). As a concerned citizen who has witnessed the deterioration of the country for decades, I, too, would like to see fresh faces in our leadership. And I hope that they'd bring about a brighter future for my son and his playmates.

But I wonder how our future leaders would be able to withstand the corrupt culture and "*palakasan*" system that permeate our whole system of governance. A rotten system that is so apparent even at our daily convergence point—roads. Reading the special plates and stickers on vehicles—old and new alike—on the road everyday will give one the picture of how corruption and "*palakasan*" have destroyed the rule of law, which is essential to a democratic government.

Look around. Aside from the numbers 6,7,8 and 16 (I wonder if our officials will extend that to 32), we also see in many cars such "indicators" as "Mayor," "Councilor," "PNP-TMG," "Lawyer, "Press," "Doctor," etc. There are also stickers/decals with the letters or words "PNPA," "PMA," "Police," etc. What do these convey? That the people inside are powerful or VIP (or the vehicle is owned by a VIP or somebody influential), and therefore they should be given special treatment, especially when it comes to traffic rules.

In those vehicles, future leaders of our country ride everyday. "New" set of leaders? I can only wish.

—ROY TORDECILLA,
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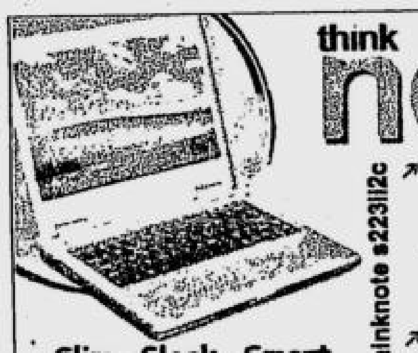

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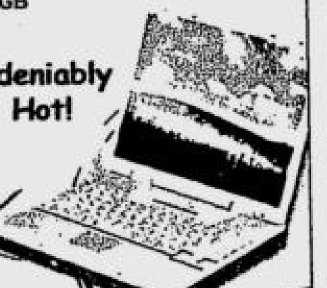

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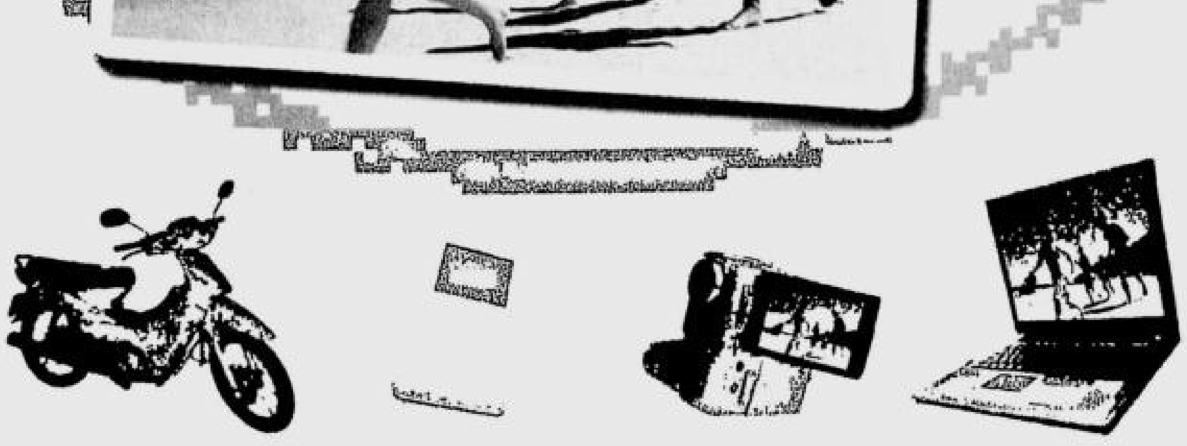

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Iloilo employers want ₱15 pay hike

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Citing increasing cost of operations, employers in Iloilo and Guimaras are offering a P10-P15 raise in daily minimum wage, instead of the P100-P125 demanded by organized labor.

Labor groups said the employers' proposal was "too insignificant."

Representatives of business groups who attended a hearing of the Regional Tripartite Wage and Productivity Board (RTWPB) last week warned that a higher wage adjustment would cripple businesses in the region.

"We are willing to provide for the needs of the workers but we also want to keep businesses going," Maria Lea Lara, executive director of the Iloilo Business Club Inc. (IBC), told the INQUIRER.

Businesses, especially those in the agriculture sector, have been severely affected by the continued increase in oil prices, she said.

"We understand the need for a wage increase, but we also have to consider the high cost of fuel and overhead costs to keep businesses afloat," she said.

A significant wage increase could also drive away foreign investments, said Francis Chung, president of the Iloilo chapter of the Philippine Retailers Association, which groups around 60 supermarket and grocery owners and operators in Iloilo.

Chung said his group was agreeable to a P15 increase for wholesale and retail trade workers from the current P145 daily minimum wage to P160, and P10 for industrial workers from P180 to P190 per day.

Business owners and operators are also bracing for a 100-percent increase in property taxes, said Chung, who is vice president of the Iloilo Multi-Sectoral Business Organization Inc. The group has nine organizations with more than 500 members.

"We cannot implement an increase of more than the P10-P15," said Chung in a phone interview.

In Western Visayas, the minimum daily wage for workers in the sugar industry is P200 in sugar mills and P170 in plantations. Workers in the industrial sector and other businesses get P190.

Lara said her group was encouraging the government to adopt non-wage measures to cushion the impact of high prices of oil and basic commodities. The measures include the granting of tax breaks to workers and free education for their children.

The moderate Trade Union Congress of the Philippines has filed a petition for a P100 increase in daily minimum wage in the region.

Militant labor groups led by the Kilusang Mayo Uno have called for the scrapping of the regional wage boards.

"The wage boards have been inutile in granting any significant wage increase for workers and has only served to nail wage levels to the lowest levels," said Wenefredo Dublezo, KMU spokesperson on Panay Island.

The KMU has been pushing for the passage of bills in Congress for a P125 increase in daily minimum wage for workers in the private sector and a P3,000 increase for government employees.

In Naga City, the Metro Naga Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MNCCI) sees business slowdown as a barrier to the wage increase.

Nicolas Beda A. Priela, president of MNCCI, said his group opted to increase the workers' monthly wages by up to six percent although earnings were going down.

"Any increase beyond six percent of the present rate would be inflationary," Priela asserted.

The workers are demanding increases of P89-P125 a day.

Priela said companies could manage oil price increases by adopting cost-cutting measures.

The board increased wages in Bicol in August 2004. The law does not allow more than one increase in a year, Priela said.

In the 2004 wage order, nonagricultural workers in Legazpi and Naga cities are to be paid a minimum wage of P194 a day. Those in Iriga and Tabaco cities and Pili and Daraga towns should get P187.

In all other areas in Bicol, laborers must get a minimum wage of P182. *With a report from Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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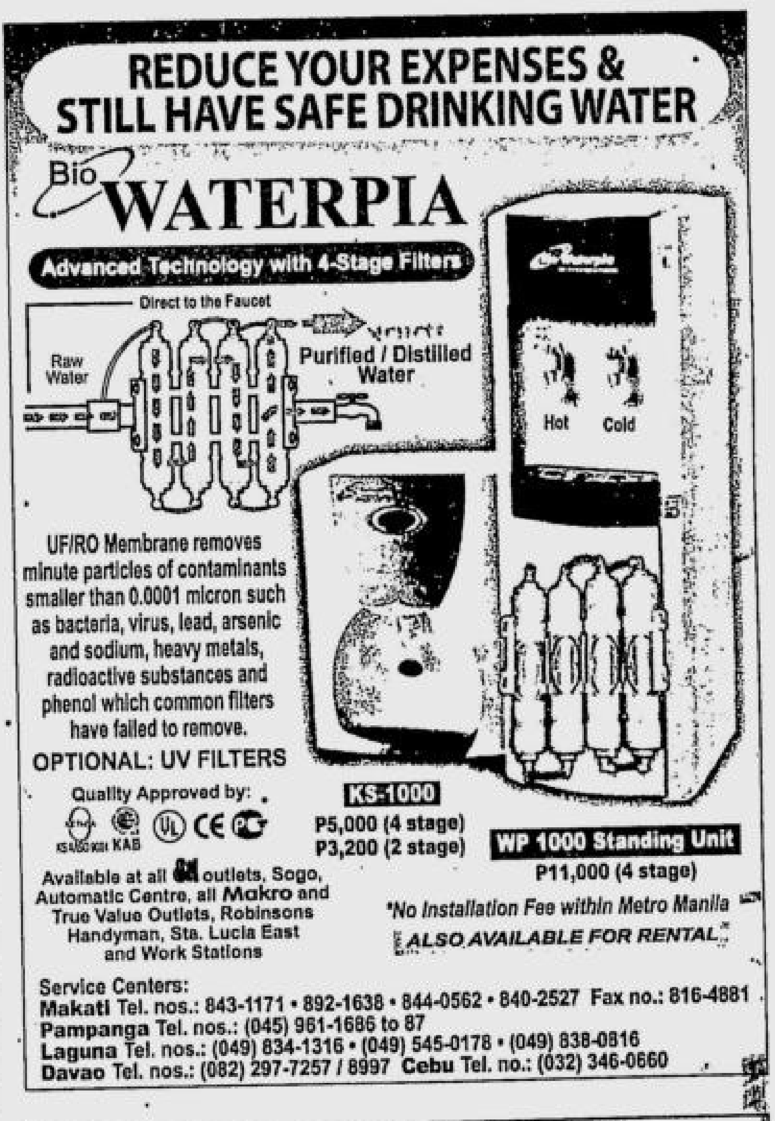
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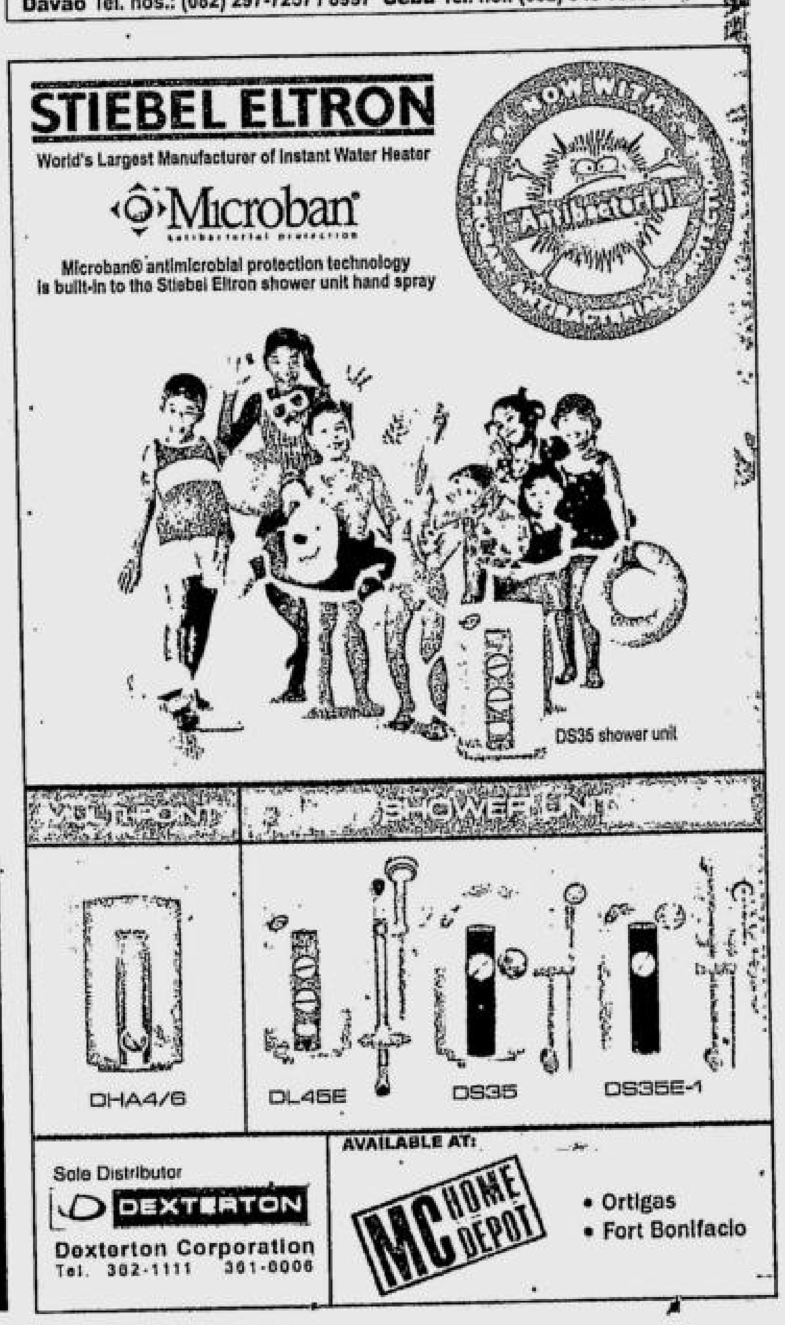
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Silay postmaster faces raps for encashed checks

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation on Friday filed a criminal complaint against the postmaster of Silay City and two of his subordinates after it uncovered a scam involving the unauthorized encashment of PhilHealth checks sent through his office.

Charged before the Silay City Prosecutor's Office were Franco Espinosa, postmaster; Chiara Tolentino, employee of Philippine Postal Corp. (Philpost) in Silay; and Ruby de Asis Abellar, a former Philpost casual employee assigned with the Silay post office.

Primitivo Najera Jr., who initiated the filing of the complaint of infidelity in the custody of documents, alleged that the "enterprising" postal personnel opened the registered mail containing PhilHealth checks and negotiated them by falsifying the signatures of the payees.

Claim

Najera cited the case of Leopoldo L. Quinlat, an indigent PhilHealth member whose wife Chona was confined at the Dr. Jose C. Lacson Memorial Provincial Hospital in Silay.

On Nov. 25, 2004, Quinlat filed a claim for reimbursement of hospitalization expenses with PhilHealth.

When he could no longer wait for his check to arrive, he asked his wife to verify the status of his claim at the PhilHealth unit of the hospital.

Chona was advised to ask the Silay post office if the check had arrived. She was told by a woman postal employee to verify with PhilHealth in Bacolod the registry number and the date of mailing of her husband's check, Najera added.

It was discovered that Quinlat's Land Bank of the Philippines Check No. 0000014581 for P3,512.55, representing his reimbursement, had already been issued by PhilHealth and encashed, Najera said.

PhilHealth authorities in Western Visayas and Bacolod later discovered that numerous PhilHealth checks payable to members, mostly residing in far-flung areas, had already been encashed without the knowledge of the payees.

Cash payment

In several instances, PhilHealth members who showed up at the post office to follow up their checks were paid in cash by office personnel instead of receiving the sealed envelopes containing their checks.

It turned out later that the checks were already negotiated even before their registry receipts were presented to the post office, Najera said.

On Friday, members of the NBI Bacolod City set up an entrapment.

Quinlat and his wife, accompanied by NBI special investigator Amormio Palencia, went to the Silay post office and presented to Tolentino a PhilHealth registry master list containing Quinlat's name under Entry No. 506.

The couple was asked to return at 11 a.m. When they did, they were again told to return at 3 p.m., Najera said.

When they went back, they were met by Abellar who, instead of giving them a sealed envelope containing their PhilHealth check, handed them P1,500, Najera said. At this point, the NBI agents arrested Abellar.

PhilHealth officials are determining the extent of the scam and had asked members who failed to receive reimbursement checks to inform their offices in Bacolod, Sagay and Kabankalan cities.

2 cops arrested for extort attempt

ILAGAN, Isabela—Four men, including two policemen, were arrested in Santiago City for allegedly extorting money from two Indians on Friday.

Police identified the suspects as SPO1 Benchito Cristobal, PO1 Dennis Salviejo, former National Bureau of Investigation agent Rosendo Colendrino and Danilo Leaño.

The suspects reportedly asked Kuldeep Singh, 23, and his companion to bring P200,000 to a restaurant in Barangay Soyung in Echague town.

The suspects went to the meeting place at 8 p.m. Friday but fled when they saw policemen waiting for them. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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24 of 137 Bicol colleges hike tuition this school year

SORSOGON CITY—The lone state college in Sorsogon is suspending its tuition increase while 24 other colleges and universities in Bicol are imposing increases this school year.

The Commission on Higher Education confirmed that of the 137 higher education institutions (HEIs) in the region, 24 had complied with the requirements for charging more tuition.

CHEd said 29 filed petitions for tuition increases.

CHEd regional director Dominador Peralta said the average increase in the region was 13.7 percent or P44.70 per unit.

Among those allowed to raise tuition were the Sorsogon Veritas College of Irosin, Sorsogon College of Criminology Inc., Annunciation College-Sorsogon Unit and CCDI, all in Sorsogon; Bicol College, Immaculate Concepcion College, Republic Colleges and Oas Community College, in Albay; CCDI-Goa and Partido College in Camarines Sur; La Consolacion Colege in Camarines Norte; Southern Bicol College and Osmeña College in Masbate; University of Saint Anthony, CCDI-Iriga City, La Consolacion College, all in Iriga; CCDI-Legazpi, Southern Luzon Technical Colleges Foundation and Aquinas University, all in Legazpi City. University of Nueva Caceres, Ateneo de Naga, Universidad de Santa Isabel, and the Naga Colleges Foundation, in Naga City.

The CHEd order says 70 percent of the additional fees must be used to raise teaching and staff salaries and 20 percent to improve facilities.

Peralta warned those found violating the order.

He said the CHEd regulation did not cover other fees being collected by the schools from students.

He appealed to school administrators to be considerate of their students in imposing other fees.

The Sorsogon State College said it was suspending the second round of tuition increase in compliance with an order of President Macapagal-Arroyo. *Bobby Q. Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Galing ng Pinoy!
NFHF National Federation of Hog Farmers, Inc.
Galing ng Pinoy Pork!
14th Hog Farmers Convention
Olongapo City Convention Center - May 26-27, 2005

(from L to R) Vice Chairman Renato Elena, Chairman Gabriel Uy and Usec. Cesar Drilon

The National Federation of Hog Farmers Inc (NFHFi) celebrates its 14th Hog Farmers Convention *"Galing ng Pinoy! Galing ng Pinoy Pork!"* at the Olongapo City Convention Center on May 26 to 27, 2005. This annual event is the biggest gathering of the country's member associations in the Hog Farming Industry, the nation's number one livestock income-generator. *"Galing ng Pinoy! Galing ng Pinoy Pork!"* showcases the high standards and proficiency of pork operations in the Philippines, the development and modernization of the Philippine hog industry, and the creation of the best Philippine pork consumer products - making Philippine pork, the Pork of Choice. The NFHFi continues to uplift the role of the Hog Farming Industry as agent and supplier in the Philippine food chain and as an essential element in Philippine agricultural economic development – and eventually become a contributor to its international export initiatives. This 14th Hog Farmers Convention is monumental as the NFHFi makes a pioneer progressive move of interacting with the country's food manufacturers to further strengthen its role in Philippine food production. We invite our fellow Filipinos to join us as we honor Philippine Pork as the Pork of Choice in our 14th Hog Farmers Convention...*"Galing ng Pinoy! Galing ng Pinoy Pork!*

Program of Activities

Pre-Convention Wednesday, 25 May 2005
The Chairman's Cup 2005 Golf Tournament
Binictan, Subic Bay Freeport Zone
The Pigminton Tournament
The SBMA Covered Basketball Court

Day 1 Thursday, 26 May 2005
7:30 am Motorcade Assembly
Boardwalk, Subic Bay Freeport Zone and Rizal Avenue, Olongapo City
8:00 Arrivals and Registrations
Olongapo City Convention Center
11:00 Opening Ceremonies
Main Lobby

Program at the Opening Ceremonies
Invocation
- Farmer Vicente P. Mercado, Davao & Zambales
National Anthem
- Corazon P. Occidental, DVM, Representative, Bulacan Hog Farmers Association
Welcome Remarks
- Farmer Johnson C. Dycaico, Convention Chairman, NFHFI
- Honorable James Gordon Jr., Mayor, City of Olongapo

Guest Speaker
- Honorable Manuel A. Roxas II, Senator, Chairman, Economic Affairs, Trade and Commerce Committee, Senate of the Republic of the Philippines
Emcee
- Corazon P. Occidental, DVM
- Farmer Francisco L. Wong

Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
Guest of Honor
- Honorable Arthur C. Yap, Secretary, Department of Agriculture
Assisted by
- Mrs. Anne Marie Gordon
- Mrs. Anna Luisa C. Dycaico
- Mrs. Aida A. Uy
- Mrs. Soledad A. Agbayani
- Mrs. Loreto C. Oslong
- Ms. Joyce Moreno
Blessing of the Exhibit Hall
- Reverend Fr. Pascual Paje of St. Anne Parish
Ceremonial Opening of the Convention
- Farmer Gabriel H. Uy, National Chairman, National Federation of Hog Farmers Inc. (NFHFI)

Plenary Luncheon
Room A
Prologue Audio Visual Presentation
Opening Remarks
- Farmer Gabriel H. Uy, National Chairman, National Federation of Hog Farmers Inc. (NFHFI)
Introducing the Keynote Speaker
- Mr. Pedro O. Ocampo, Executive Director, Livestock Development Council, Department of Agriculture
Keynote Speaker
- Honorable Arthur C. Yap, Secretary, Department of Agriculture

SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS

DAY 1 - Thursday, 26 May 2005

TIME	Plenary A	Seminar Room A	Seminar Room B
1:00 – 2:00 pm	Sow and Piglet Nutrition : Sanmarek Feeds Co. Inc.	Pneumonia Control Program - Current Approach . Schering-Plough Animal Health	Maximizing the Growth of Potential Pigs through Responsible Use of Growth Promotants . Novartis
2:00 – 5:00 pm	Galing ng Kabuhayan Galing sa Baboy – Mula sa Babuyan Hanggang sa Palengke – ang mga patakaran sa pag-halid pag-katay at pag-alado ng baboy" : (Pork Cutting / Processing) Ms. Lourdes Rivera and Dr. Gracia Flores / PAMPI	3:15 – 4:00 pm The Power To Control Salmonellosis Boehringer Ingelheim (Phils) 4:15pm Controversies on Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae Vaccination Protocol : Hipra Philippines Inc.	• Hog Farming . Commercialization of the Backyard Farms • Hog Master Development Plan NFHFI • FMD Campaign Updates : FMD Task Force • Breeding Program . PIC Philippines • Animal Health Pfizer • Feeds and Nutrition : San Miguel B-Meg • Pig Management and Housing – NFHFI • Waste Water Management : ITCPH • Production of Organic Fertilizer IAS-UPLB • Biogas Technology for the Masses

DAY 2 – Friday, 27 May 2005

TIME	Plenary A	Seminar Room B
9:00 – 10:00 am	Galing ng Kabuhayan Galing sa Baboy – Mula sa Babuyan Hanggang sa Palengke – ang mga patakaran at pamamaraan sa pag-gawa ng mga produktong nagmumula sa baboy") Ms. Lourdes Rivera / PAMPI	"How Far Have We Gone in PRRS Control?" Boehringer Ingelheim (Phils)
10:00 – 11:00 am		Study to Evaluate the Benefits of Excenel™ Prewean Program in Local Commercial Swine Farms , Pfizer
11:00 – 12:00 pm		Winning the Battle Against Ileitis Boehringer Ingelheim
1:00 – 2:00 pm		Fullfat Soybean Meal in Swine Feeding - University of Nottingham, United Kingdom ; American Soy Bean Association
2:00 – 3:00 pm	Galing ng Kabuhayan Galing sa Baboy - Mula sa Babuyan Hanggang Hapag Kainan - ang mga patakaran at mga pamamamaraan sa malusog na pag-luto ng baboy") Ms. Lourdes Rivera & Executive Chef and Professor Nelson Roque / PAMPI	Soybean Supply Usage and Prices ; Impact on Philippine Feeds and Animal Industry ; American Soy Bean Association
3:15 – 4:15 pm		Antibiotic Sensitivity Profiling : Novartis

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Highway widening starts in treeless areas

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE LACK of a permit to cut the trees along the MacArthur Highway would not hamper the ongoing widening of the roadway, according to a Department of Public Works and Highways official.

Pending the Department of Environment and Natural Resource's issuance of a permit, the DPWH would concentrate on widening the congested areas along the highway, Assistant Secretary Manuel Agyao said in a recent interview.

"We have applied for a permit with the DENR. It's still pending and we have to wait. In the meantime, we will begin work on critical areas like intersections and those near schools and markets," Agyao said.

Agyao pointed out that the areas of the highway where the big and old trees are located are not very crowded or traffic-prone.

"Since there is little traffic in those portions of the highway, there is no pressing need for us to widen that," he said.

Several sectors had questioned the cutting of the trees—some believed to be several decades old—along the highway. The trees may need to be removed to make way for a new lane.

The widening of the highway from Meycauayan, Bulacan to Tarlac started on May 16.

The P500-million undertaking involves turning the two-lane highway into four lanes to accommodate the motorists who would rather use the road to avoid having to pay the increased toll fees at the North Luzon Expressway.

The project is scheduled to be finished by November. To ensure that it would be completed in time and to minimize traffic congestion, the DPWH is using quick-drying concrete.

Agyao earlier said using the concrete would cut its drying time by half. From the usual 28 days, the concrete would dry in only 14 days.

The DPWH has also begun mapping out alternate routes for motorists with the help of local government units in case any lanes need to be closed.

The politics . . .

From page A1

Army generals to avert what the plotters called a conspiracy of the Council of Generals to seize power upon Sukarno's death.

The officers, led by Lt. Col. Untung, a battalion commander of the regiment, were found during trials of the Sept. 30 coup to have links with the PKI. That evening, Untung's group raided the homes of eight senior generals—including the Army commander, General Yani—seized them, and murdered them at the Halim Air Force base with the aid of PKI youth squads.

The coup

The murders broke the stalemate in the power balance between the Army and the 3-million-strong PKI, with a mass base of 10 million in the unions and rural grass roots. They provoked the Army to crush the coup, which became known as the Sept. 30 Movement, in Jakarta within two days.

General Suharto, commander of the Kostrad, the strategic Army command in Jakarta, was lucky he escaped the assassinations because he was not on the target list. He took command after General Nasution, the defense minister, was wounded, and organized the Army paratroop forces to crush PKI-risings in Central and East Java, where PKI cadres were strong.

In the anticommunist campaign, an estimated 500,000 Indonesians were massacred. Sukarno's involvement in the coup remains a question up to this day. The coup marked the turning point of the demise of Sukarno's Guided Democracy and the advent of the Suharto military dictatorship after Sukarno transferred, reportedly under gunpoint of Army pressure, executive powers to Suharto on March 11, 1966.

The significance of the coup, as a political lesson to us, is that it was a defining event that broke the stalemate between the PKI and the Army that had been mediated by Sukarno with his superb political skills and charismatic powers. The coup was an unexpected intervention which broke the balance.

Philippine situation

I am using the Indonesian episode to make an argument, applicable to the Philippines' current political instability, that we are in the midst of a year of living dangerously marked by a series of stalemates that provides a combustible environment.

The political explosion could be triggered by an untoward and unexpected event.

My argument is that stalemates are dangerous situations depicting a precarious balance of power and inviting unwelcome extraconstitutional interventions, such as people power, military takeover or withdrawal of military support from a sitting elected government.

The Arroyo administration is due to end its first elected year in office on June 30. Between that date and last month, when the VAT (value-added tax) reform bill was passed, the administration had jumped from a series of stalemates played out in the legislature that sent the country to a potential constitutional crisis following a filibuster by the opposition. Passage of the administration's key legislative agenda has been rough and punctuated by stalemates.

The VAT dead heat has been overcome. But it is not the last.

Prospects are the administration is going to face further standoffs and given its leadership record, it is likely to muddle through with little dynamism in coping with fiscal crises and crisis of confidence now engulfing the nation.

It is now embroiled in the "jueteng" scandal that has hijacked the agenda of the Senate and of the House away from reform economic legislation.

Although it would be hard to prove involvement of members of the President's family in alleged jueteng payoffs, the Senate inquiry into the scandal cannot but damage the administration politically and further erode public confidence in Ms Arroyo, whose popularity has been falling during the past few months.

Corruption

Jueteng elevates corruption as a major issue against the administration as important as the fiscal deficit crisis, deterioration and breakdown of law and order, the President's phlegmatic leadership style and lackluster accomplishment record. It diverts national energy from issues involving productive programs.

Corruption as an issue and its highlighting as a national concern is dangerous because it has become the focus of attempts of political destabilization, most notably by groups that have been increasingly reported as plotting to overthrow the government through coups. It has provided conspiratorial groups the issue around which to mobilize mass support and military support behind coup plots to hasten the overthrow of the elected government.

Coup plots are feeding not only on the corruption issue but also on a serious cause for discontent—rising cost of living and festering poverty. These two issues are a combustible mix that are waiting to be ignited by an unexpected untoward event.

The administration has to guard against this kind of catalyst that could break the political stalemate of the day and spark another popular mass mobilization that could invite military intervention.

The political atmosphere is highly charged today, and the jueteng scandal provides the short fuse for a political explosion.

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Manila Water

A. Rita Project update

Temporary 15-hour water interruption in San Juan, Quezon City, Mandaluyong, Manila and Makati needed to upgrade pipelines

Manila Water is currently undertaking a major pipe laying project called the A. Rita Line Project which will benefit approximately 70,000 residents. As part of the project, the interconnection of Phase 1 along Gen. Kalentong St. will result in a temporary water supply interruption starting 12:00 noon, May 24, 2005, Tuesday, up to 3:00 a.m., May 25, Wednesday.

Affected areas are the following:

San Juan: Bgy. Corazon de Jesus, Bgy. Rivera, Bgy. San Perfecto, Bgy. Salapan, Batis, Kabayanan, Tibagan, Maytunas, Onse, Addition Hills, MWSS ROW (F. Sevilla), Little Baguio, Greenhills, Valencia, Once, Pleasant Hills.

Quezon City: Bgy. Mariana, New Manila, Bgy. Rolling Hills, Bgy. Kristong Hari, areas along E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave. (From Gilmore Ave. to MWSI Zone)

Mandaluyong: Bgy. Daang Bakal, Bagong Silang, Hagdang bato Libis, Harapin ang Bukas, Pag-asa, Burol, Poblacion, New Zaniga, Old Zaniga, Hulo, San Jose, Hagdang Bato Itaas, Bgy. Vergara, Bgy. Mabini- J P Rizal, Bgy. Namayan, Bgy. Plainview and Hagdang Bato.

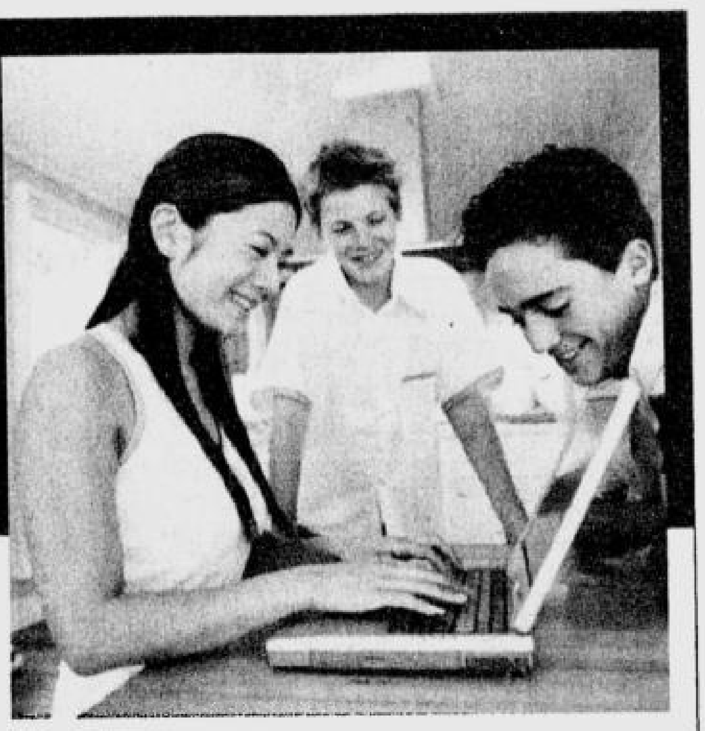
Manila: Whole of San Andres and Sta Ana

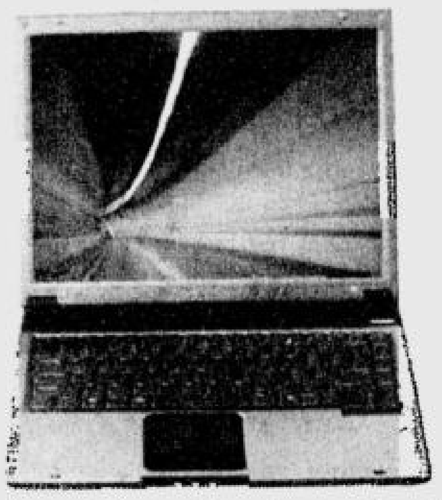
Makati: Bgy. Kasilawan, Bgy. Carmona.

Manila Water Company advises all residents of the said areas to store enough water prior to the scheduled interruptions to avoid inconvenience.

For the latest update, please call our Customer Call Center Hotline at 1627.

Investing in pipelines for the future.





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No word yet on return of First Gentleman

From page A1

and his eldest son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, to "jueteng."

"We don't have any advice yet," the official, requesting anonymity, told the INQUIRER when asked by phone when Arroyo was coming back.

The official said that based on Miaa information, Arroyo was in Singapore and did not proceed to the United States, as had been reported.

The official confirmed that Arroyo's younger brother, Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, was also in Singapore with the First Gentleman.

Both father and son have denied allegations that they were receiving jueteng money.

The airport official the INQUIRER talked to was privy to the foreign trips of President Macapagal-Arroyo and members of the First Family.

The Miaa normally extends assistance to government officials and the First Family when they leave for and return from domestic and foreign trips.

Malacañang made it clear yesterday that President Macapagal-Arroyo meant business when she called for a new crackdown on illegal gambling.

"This is a no letup drive," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement. "We expect both the Philippine National Police and the Bureau of Internal Revenue to go after the big-time operators."

In an interview with reporters, Bunye dodged a question on whether the new campaign was rushed by Malacañang amid allegations that some members of the First Family were recipients of jueteng money.

Bunye said it was the President herself who approved a law last year exacting heavier penalties on illegal gambling, or Republic Act No. 9287.

"Her current directives are a reiteration of a policy long held by the Chief Executive," he said.

The President's political adviser, Gabriel Claudio, said the new presidential order should serve as "a stern warning to [jueteng] operators and their protectors that there would be no leniency in the application of existing laws against their illegal activities."

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said that income from jueteng could be a source of revenue for government. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

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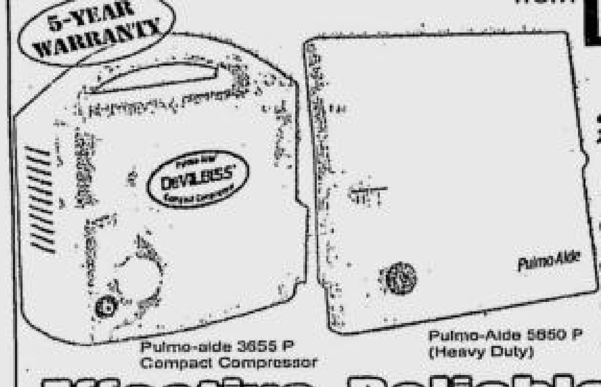

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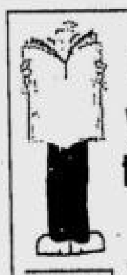
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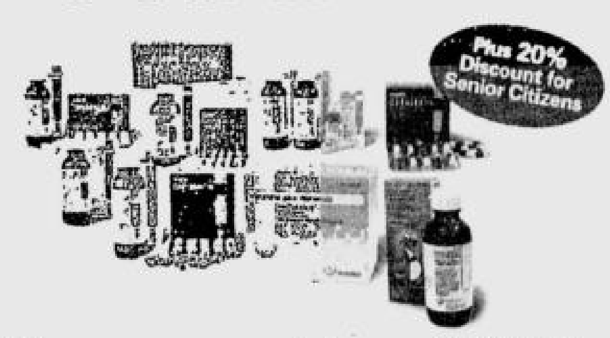

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Camarines Sur gov denies 'jueteng' link

NAGA CITY—Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte yesterdeay denied an INQUIRER report which mentioned him as among the governors allegedly receiving "jueteng" payoffs.

Villafuerte said he had no involvement in jueteng and that someone might have been using his name.

He said his order to the provincial police to crack down hard on jueteng operations in Camarines Sur had already yielded results with the arrest on Saturday of jueteng operators in Tinambac town. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Bishop to present 'jueteng' witness

From page A1

First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, through a lawyer, and his son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, have denied allegations by three people the INQUIRER had talked to who said they had received payoffs from gambling lords.

Only at the Senate

Faced with a bruising scandal, President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered an inquiry and directed the Philippine National Police to launch a full-scale war on jueteng operators.

Unlike the supposed jueteng lord and two alleged bagmen who had granted media interviews, Cruz said he had advised his witness to present his evidence only at the Senate investigation.

"I think that would be the proper thing to do," he said in a phone interview.

In an earlier talk with the INQUIRER, the bishop said one of two witnesses he had been trying to persuade to come out "will tell everything he knows."

'A man of truth'

The prelate had apparently convinced the prospective whistle-blower.

The Senate has yet to fix a date for the start of its inquiry, which had been originally planned to start last week.

Cruz, head of the Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, described his witness as a "truthful man with extensive knowledge on jueteng operations."

Cruz declined to say if his witness was a gambling operator or a bet collector or in what specific area the person operated.

But he gave the impression that his man was deeply involved in jueteng.

Will big people be named?

He also refused to say if the man had tagged, or would tag, some big fish. "We will know all these during the Senate inquiry," he said.

The videotape would reveal the extent of jueteng operations in the witness' area of responsibility, the bishop said.

"It's all there," Cruz said. "He wanted to make sure that even if something happened to him, the truth will be known."

The INQUIRER learned that the witness had contacted the outspoken bishop even before the three jueteng whistle-blowers gave interviews to a select group of reporters last week.

A second witness

A second person, a known jueteng operator in Central Luzon, earlier sounded off the bishop, telling him he was willing to testify at the Senate inquiry. But he supposedly changed his mind later.

The second man is known to be at odds with another jueteng operator over control of a key province. The competitor is alleged to be a big campaign contributor to a top government official.

Bishop urges fairness

Cruz urged the Department of Justice to be "fair and have no leanings against or in favor of any party" in its planned investigation into the jueteng mess.

He said Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez should consider turning some of the whistle-blowers into state witnesses, provided that they were telling the truth and were the least guilty.

Cruz said his group of crusaders was "grateful" to Ms Arroyo for finally waging an all-out war on jueteng. His group has estimated that jueteng was now a P13-billion industry.

"The crusade looks at this as a positive development with the firm hope that jueteng will be out of the national picture permanently," Cruz said. "If it happens that jueteng is eradicated, then we'll have reason to fold up."

Senators still to decide

Senators are holding a caucus today to thresh out a wide range of issues, including the upcoming inquiry into jueteng and priority legislation, with only three weeks left before Congress goes on recess.

The Senate committee on rules is to decide, either today or tomorrow, which committee would handle the jueteng probe.

The inquiry was delayed after Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. objected to Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid's chairing the hearing proposed to be conducted by the former actor's committee on games, amusement and sports.

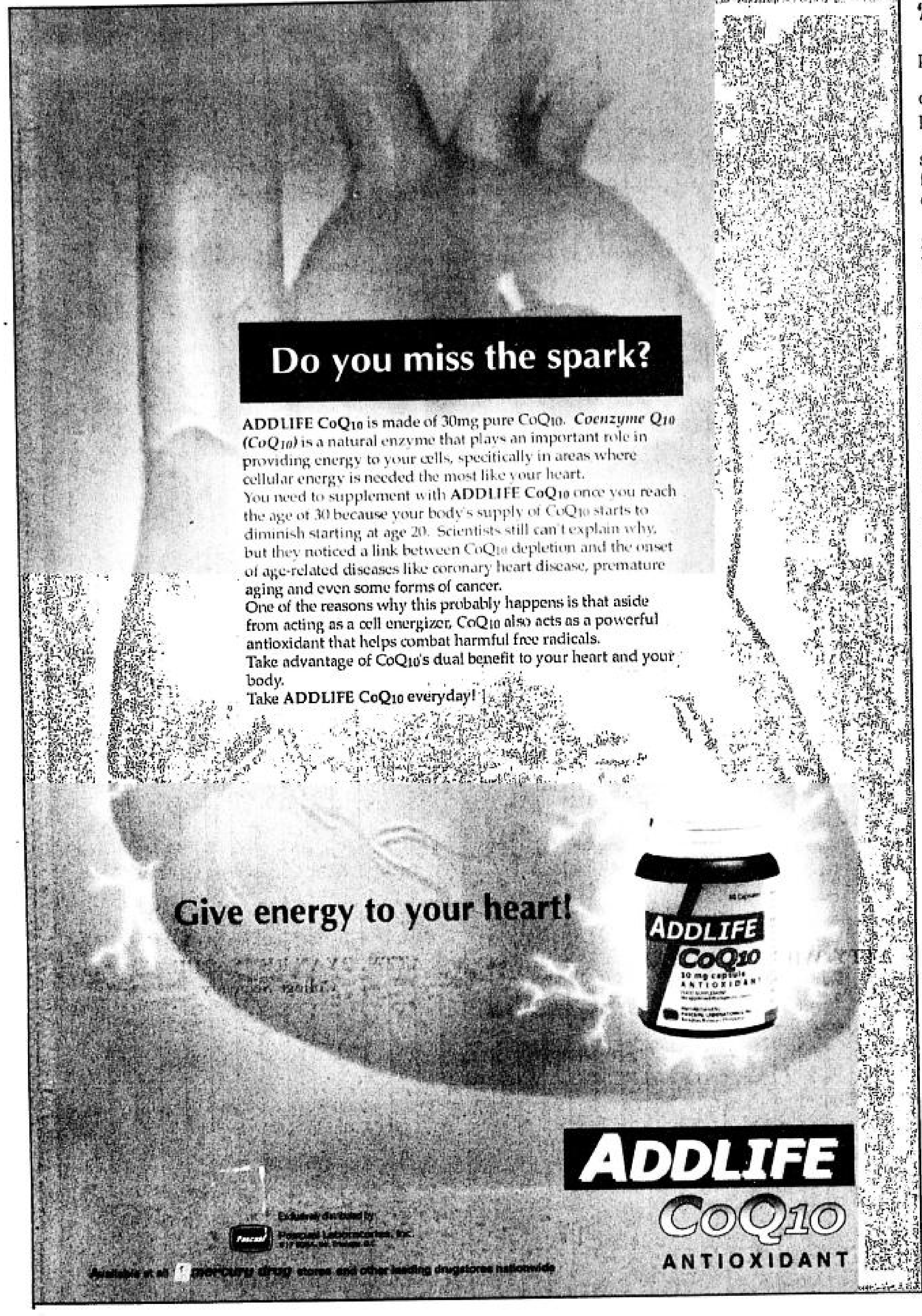
Ping and Nene's witnesses

A joint hearing with Sen. Manuel Villar's committee on public order and illegal drugs was later proposed as a compromise. But no final decision has been reached.

Lacson had said he had eight potential witnesses, but that he had only talked to three, who had agreed to testify.

He said the three were different from the trio who had talked to the INQUIRER.

Pimentel, for his part, has submitted to the Senate a list of 24 people who should be invited to testify. In addition, he said he had six people who had indicated their willingness to appear before the Senate. *With a report from TJ Burgonio*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FORMER Sen. Gregorio Honasan (center) leads a Guardian assembly at the Cembo Sports Complex in Makati City. RUDY ESPERAS

Gringo vows . . .

From page A1

leaders of the military revolt which sparked the 1986 People Power Revolution that toppled the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, told his fellow Guardians.

Honasan also led at least three bloody coup attempts against President Corazon Aquino during her term in 1986-92. He was captured but he later escaped from a prison ship. During the administration of President Fidel V. Ramos, Honasan and other putschists were granted amnesty.

Honasan went on to become a senator, but in 2002, he and the Guardians were implicated in the short-lived Oakwood mutiny.

No destabilization

In yesterday's assembly, Honasan flatly denied reports that he and his fellow Guardians were again involved in a new destabilization plot against Ms Arroyo.

"Those reports are the result of lazy intelligence work. You know, they steal the intelligence funds, then they link the Guardians [to a destabilization plot] and for that, they may even get promoted," he said in Filipino, eliciting laughter from his fellow Guardians.

Honasan, the Grand Supremo and chair of the Guardians, said his group would not support "a coup or a revolution" to bring about change in society.

No change

He brushed aside the call of retired Maj. Gen. Fortunato Abat for the establishment of a "revolutionary government" to replace the Arroyo administration. "He [Abat] was secretary of national defense before, and what did he do?" said the ex-senator.

Even so, Honasan said Edsa II that ousted the graft-ridden administration of President Joseph Estrada in 2001 showed "nothing has changed."

"This is not the fault of Marcos or Erap or even Gloria. This is the result of leadership that did not show direction, and the problems that have accumulated through the years," Honasan said.

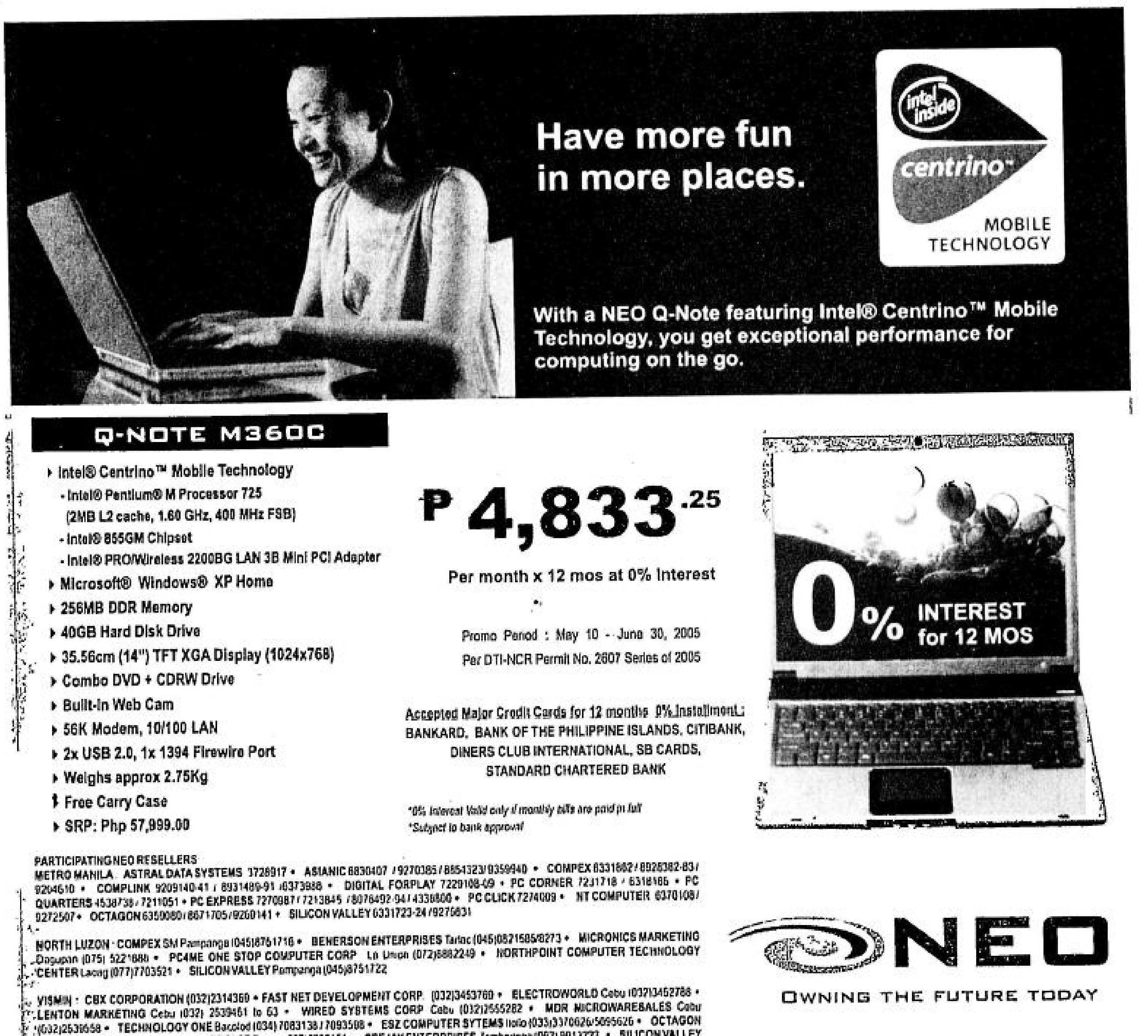
During their special convention at the Cembo Sports Complex in Makati City, Honasan and the Guardians also discussed their position on issues such as the expanded value-added tax, rising oil prices, corruption and even the financially troubled College Assurance Plan.

Present at the convention were 4,000 Guardian leaders from various areas, particularly Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Bulacan and Rizal. There were also representatives from PGBI chapters in Italy, Hong Kong, North Carolina and the Middle East.

In a resolution, the PGBI also expelled one of its leaders, Liborio Jangao, for "sowing intrigues" and for being a "paid mercenary" who caused disunity among the Guardians.

To dramatize Jangao's expulsion from PGBI, Honasan erased the tattoo that had been etched on him by Jangao, and had his arm tatooed again by another Guardian.

The Guardians, who all sport tattoos on their hands and upper arms, then lined up to kiss Honasan's hand—a sight reminiscent of a scene in Mario Puzo's "The Godfather." In the book, the Mafia boss Don Vito Corleone taught his youngest son that "revenge is a dish best served cold."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Attendance in school not enough, says UN

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

SENDING your kids to school is not enough.

Parents should also make sure their children are learning well, a United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) officer said.

"We have good enrollment rates in the Philippines. But there are indications that achievement in school is suffering," Unicef senior program officer Colin Davis said.

The quality of education in the country is apparently dwindling as under-nutrition rates soar.

Davis expressed alarm over the habit of many parents of feeding their kids with noodles—now the staple of the poor.

Noodles do not provide the nutrients children need, he said.

"We must change this habit. If our children are hungry, they cannot pay attention in school," Davis said.

"Instead of buying bottles of beer and cigarettes, parents should spend on books and food," he said.

Parents should also get involved in school.

They should monitor how their children are doing in school, help their kids in doing homework and keep track of the lessons of the young ones, he added.

Recognizing the meager budget for education, Davis said parents' associations should contribute to provide better school facilities.

The quality of teachers should also be improved, he added.

In an international conference on children's rights last week, the Philippine Council for the Welfare of Children reported that almost all Filipino children get to enroll in grade school, but only seven of every 10 first grade students reach sixth grade.

Five of every 10 high school enrollees never get to finish high school.

Labor wants action on wage bill

By DJ Yap

LABOR groups yesterday urged legislators to stop sitting on the proposed P125 across-the-board wage hike.

Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino secretary-general Leody de Guzman accused administration lawmakers of stalling deliberations on the bill.

De Guzman said some legislators, whom he did not name, were trying to delay House Bill No. 345 using various tactics, such as citing technicalities or the lack of a quorum.

Last week, the House opened floor debates on the bill filed by Rep. Roseller Barinaga, who heads the House committee on labor and employment.

The bill states that all employers in the private sector, whether agricultural or non-agricultural and regardless of capitalization and number of employees, shall pay their workers an across-the-board wage increase of P125 a day.

At a press conference in Quezon City, BMP and Partido ng Manggagawa said P125 was actually small and would serve only as "emergency relief," as families brace for another round of increases in transportation fare and prices of goods.

De Guzman said that if left to regional wage boards, the minimum wage might only be raised by P20 to P40.

White band against poverty

AN INTERNATIONAL movement against poverty is calling on everyone to wear a white band as their way of asking world leaders to help alleviate the living conditions of the world's poorest.

The local chapter of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) recently met with various sectors at a summit at the University of the Philippines to discuss how to mobilize Filipinos against poverty.

GCAP agreed to use the white band as a symbol of unity for its cause. People may use the white bands as wrist bands, arm bands or even headbands. The bands may be made from any materials. They may also bear a slogan, such as "Make Poverty History," etc.

On July 1, the group wants to rally 10,000 people to speak out against poverty. *DJ Yap*

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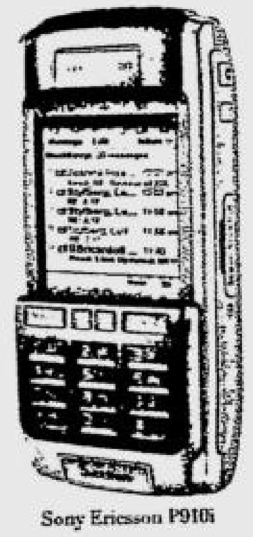

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MOTOR SPORTS: 2005 Monaco Grand Prix; 4:45 p.m. (r); STAR Sports – Check out the replay of the weekend's race.

BASKETBALL: NBA Playoffs – Spurs vs Suns, Game 1, Western Finals; 7 a.m. (r—9 p.m.); RPN 9; Solar Sports, 6:30 p.m.; RPN 9 – Phoenix and San Antonio face off to see who's the best in the west.

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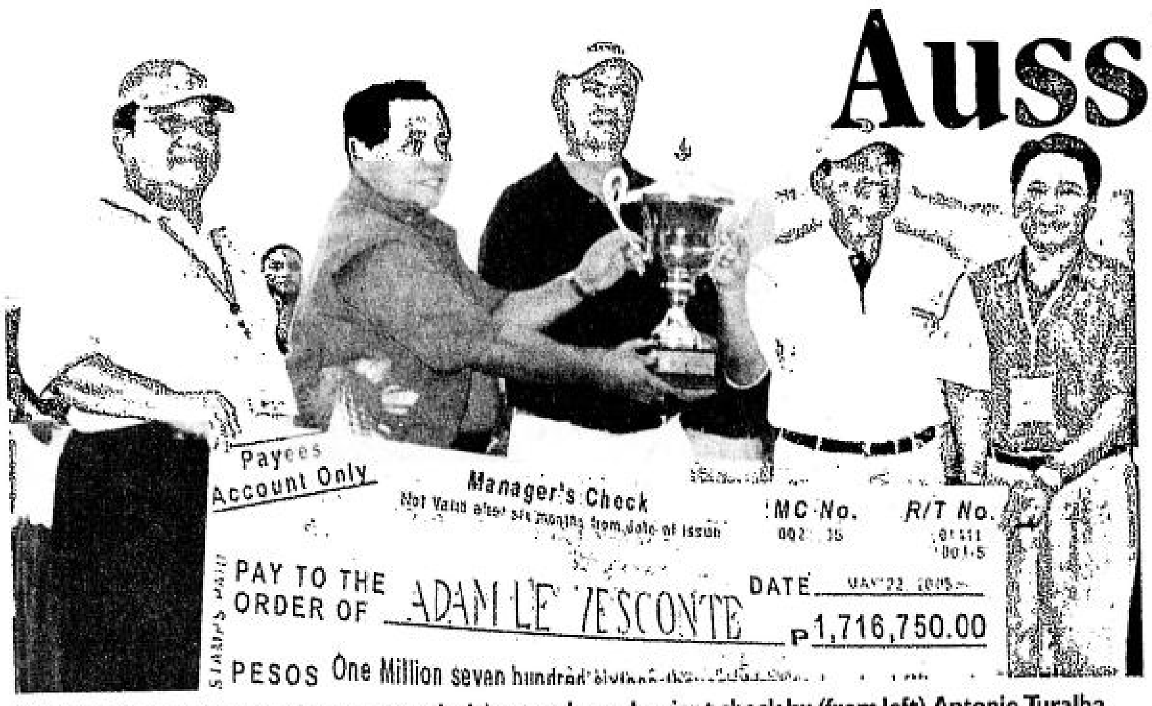
Aussie longshot wins

Rosales rally falls short in RP Open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PAY TO THE ORDER OF ADAM LE VESCONTE
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ADAM le Vesconte (center) is presented with a trophy and a giant check by (from left) Antonio Turalba, president and owner of Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club, DPWH Sec. Leandro Mendoza, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and NGAP president Benigno Gopez.

ROGER MARGALLO

Musong R. Castillo

LIPA CITY—An Australian led after the first round, another pummeled the course for a new record, and—fittingly or otherwise—the one least expected by the big and powerful contingent from Down Under routed the field to win the 89th Philippine Open yesterday.

Adam Le Vesconte slipped with a bogey on the first hole but played steadily the rest of the way, shooting a final round seven-under-par 64 yesterday to ward off local bet Gerald Rosales and book the first big win of an obscure career.

A 34-year-old whose career didn't have much direction before, Le Vesconte finished with eight birdies at a Malarayat course here that played tough again, birdieing five of his last seven holes for a 12-under 272 to win over Rosales pulling away.

Rosales, the 2000 winner, shot a 67 and finished alone in second with a 276 total, four shots back and not at all bad for someone whose swing went through a near overhaul three months ago.

"Nothing like this," said Le Vesconte, when asked if he's had any success before. "It's good to be feeling this way. When you win, it's always a good feeling."

A native of Queensland, Le Vesconte thus became the first Aussie to win Asia's oldest championship since Rob Whitlock at Southwoods in 1996 and just the third after the great Peter Thompson at fabled Wack Wack in 1964.

He pocketed $31,500 out of the $200,000 pot and admitted that his life—and career—has changed forever.

Rosales, whose LPGA superstar sister Jenny went here straight from the airport, battled hard all day, pulling to within a shot of the Australian with a birdie on the 12th in the flight ahead of the final group.

But Le Vesconte answered back with a 25-footer for birdie on the same hole, before two-putting to pick up another shot on the par-5 13th and keep Rosales at bay.

"This is the first time that I can prepare for a full year of golf (with this money)," Adam said. "And when my wife hears this, she'll definitely give me a call and I'm off for home.

"I had a good dinner last night, a couple of beers. Yes, winning entered my mind," added Le Vesconte, who started the day in third two strokes behind overnight leader and compatriot Jason Dawes and one off Thai veteran Boonchu Ruangkit.

"He's the shortest hitter in this field," said rookie Adam Blyth of Le Vesconte. Blyth admitted rooting for Dawes, the 2003 Acer Taiwan Open winner, who shot a 62 on Saturday.

"He's been around (in Australia) forever and, honestly, I didn't think that he would be able to shoot this low and win a tournament like this," said Chris Travers, another Aussie who shot 74 and finished tied for 32nd at 287.

Rosales won $21,600 for his runner-up effort, while Dawes, who was flawless Saturday, limped home with a 72 and finished third with a 278 total worth $12,100.

Juvic Pagunsan, the runner-up last year, again won low amateur honors despite fading early with double bogeys on the eighth and 12th holes. The 27-year-old went on to salvage a 1-under 283 with a birdie on his 72nd hole for joint sixth.

American Bryan Saltus shot a 72 and compatriot Ron Won rallied with a 70 to finish tied for fourth with 282s worth $8,780.

Rey Pagunsan was the best-placed Filipino pro after Rosales.

AUSSIE/ A26

Scores

272 – A. Le Vesconte (Aus) 71-70-67-64

276 – G. Rosales 69-73-67-67

278 – J. Dawes (Aus) 72-72-62-72

282 – B. Saltus (US) 68-74-68-72, R. Won (US) 69-71-72-70

283 – B. Ruangkit (Tha) 70-68-69-76, D. Griff (Can 69-72-68-74, J. Pagunsan (a) 68-72-69-74, A. Buckle (Aus) 66-73-73-71, D. Chia (Mas) 72-71-72-68

284 – S. Hussein (Mas) 73-70-67-74, A. Lascuña 72-71-68-73, R. Pagunsan 70-72-69-73, R. Nachimuthu (Mas) 72-73-67-72, G. Morales (Ven) 71-70-72-71, K. Horne (SA) 72-73-68-71, G. Rusnak (US) 76-71-70-67.

285 – S. Srisa-Nga (Tha) 67-75-67-76, S. Lee (Kor) 71-75-67-72, A. Singh (Ind) 72-70-72-71, S. Mao-chang (Tpe) 69-78-70-68, C. Casas 70-70-75-70.

286 – J. Luprian (Ger) 71-70-72-73, R. Backwell (Aus) 71-75-68-72, A.R Zahari (Mas) 70-72-72-72, R. Hodgetts (Aus) 75-70-69-72, C. Gill (Eng) 72-69-74-71, J. Bayron (a) 76-68-71-71, A. Prathummanee (Tha) 71-74-72-69, R. Gibson (Can) 71-70-75-70, H. Takeuchi (Jpn) 71-73-72-70.

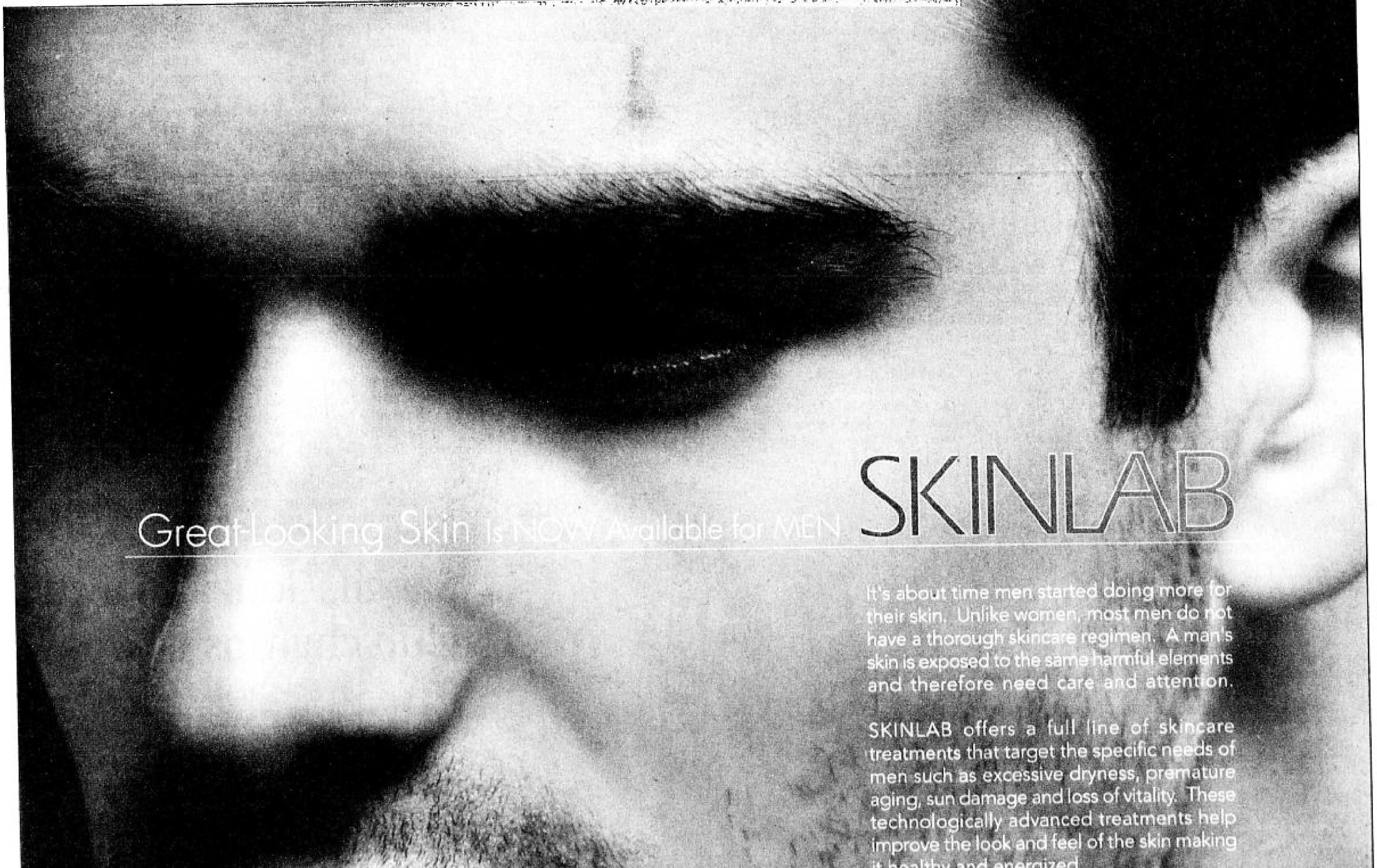
287 -- L. Chih-Bing (Sin) 74-71-68-74, W. Artjanawat (Tha) 73-71-67-76, C. Travers (Aus) 68-75-70-74, O. Nordberg (Swe) 73-73-69-72, D. Singh (Ind) 74-73-69-71, A. Kang (US) 77-69-73-68, A. Win (Mya) 73-71-74-69, A. Quiroz (Mex) 72-73-72-70.

288 – C. Nirat (Tha) 73-72-66-77, J. Wither (Sco) 68-73-72-75, U. Duangdecha (Tha) 72-75-69-72

289 – D. Alaban (Aus) 73-74-69-73, D. Fung (HK) 72-75-70-72, A. Rohana (Sri) 72-73-72-72, K. Bo-Song (Tpe) 78-68-72-71, E. Salvador 75-72-71-71, A. Blyth (Aus) 68-75-76-70.

290 – A. Murakami (a) 75-70-69-76, C. Warren (Aus) 73-74-69-74, S. Kapur (Ind) 70-76-70-74, S. Taylor (US) 70-76-71-73, J. Lyle (Aus) 70-74-73-73.

291 – O. Sumcad 78-69-70-74, A. Que 68-75-74-74, M. Both (Aus) 76-71-71-73, C. Rodgers (Eng) 69-73-76-73, F. Ali (Ind) 73-72-74-72, P. Spargo (Aus) 72-71-77-71, M. Pucay 72-73-75-71.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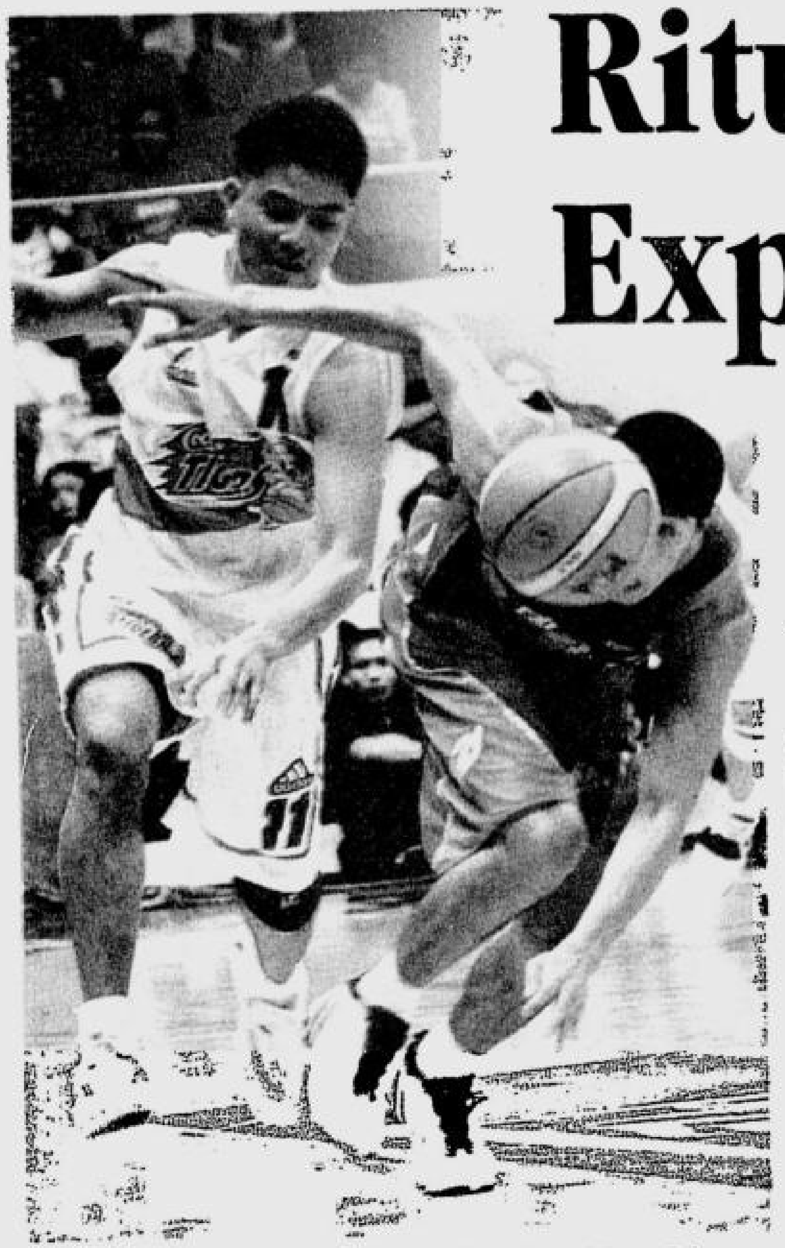
Rituale saves Express anew

FedEx posts 4th straight victory



WESLEY Gonzales of Fed Ex and Gerard Francisco of Coca-Cola go after the loose ball.
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

GAMES WEDNESDAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:45 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs FedEx
7:35 p.m.—Red Bull Barako vs SMB

RENREN Ritualo buried an off-balanced three-pointer with one-tenths of a second left in regulation that forced overtime and FedEx picked it up from there to down Coca-Cola, 109-106, last night in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

"That shot energized the entire team in the extension period," said FedEx coach Bong Ramos after the Express nailed a fourth straight victory, their ninth after 16 games.

In the second game, Sta. Lucia hammered out a tough 54-53 victory over Purefoods to improve to 10-8 and occupy solo third place.

The Hotdogs dropped to 7-10 after combining with the Realtors for the second lowest total output in league history.

"We we're already given up for lost. It was God's hands that made it possible," added Ramos.

After his triple attempt rimmed, he intercepted the outlet pass by Gerald Francisco and launched another trey that hit the glass before dropping to force overtime at 95-all.

Animated by Ritualo's basket, the Express dominated the extra five minutes behind Anthony Miller and Wesley Gonzales.

Miller barreled in for 26 points and grabbed a personal-high 31 rebounds while Gonzales had a career-high 23 points on eight of 17 field-goal shooting.

Ritualo finished with 22 points although he was only two of nine attempts from three-point range.

"We're blessed but at the same time hard work really paid off," said Ramos, whose Express are savoring their longest win streak in two years or since their all-time franchise best five-game run in the 2003 All-Filipino Cup.

The Express, who climbed into a tie for third with San Miguel, are now in contention for an outright semifinal berth or twice-to-beat advantage in the wildcard phase of the elimination round.

With their fifth straight defeat and 12 in 17 games, the Tigers are now staring at either ninth or 10th going into the next phase.

Mark Sanford scored a conference-high 47 points and had 21 boards.

Ali Peek chipped in 20 points and Rob Wainwright added 20 in vain efforts to offset the absence of John Arigo and Rafi Reavis.

Arigo is recuperating from an ankle injury while Reavis remains suspended after failing to complete the requirements imposed by the league on foreign-born players.

FEDEX 109—Miller 26, Gonzales 23, Ritualo 22, Billones 12, David 9, De Ocampo 7, Ferriols 4, Dacla 2, Pingris 2, Arboleda 2, Victolero 0, Codinera 0.

COCA-COLA 106—Sanford 47, Peek 20, Wainwright 15, Chia 8, Abarrientos 6, Francisco 6, Antonio 4, Singson 0, Avenido 0, Juinio 0, Morano 0.

Quarters: 30-31, 59-59, 79-79, 95-95, 109-106.

PBA anniversary bash up

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association is inviting all former players and officials to come and join the fun when the PBA commemorates its 30th anniversary on May 28 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Commissioner Noli Eala said the presence of these individuals will add prestige and evoke nostalgia for the affair—powered by TM, ang bagong Touch Mobile ng bayan.

"We hope all people, who at one time or another, had been a part and parcel of the league, will join us when the PBA looks back and celebrates its 30th anniversary," said Eala.

Admission is free for all ex-pros.

Highlight of the event is the launching of the first ever PBA Hall of Fame and the lone featured encounter pitting the league's 25 greatest players in a game dubbed the 'TM Astig ! The PBA Greatest Game (Legends vs Greats).

Ozamiz thwarts Zamboanga del Norte

DAPITAN CITY—Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Ozamiz Cotta escaped the upset ax by turning back the hard-fighting Zamboanga del Norte Hornbills, 94-87, Saturday in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the Cultural & Sports Center here.

Melfred Sampilo and Louie Aquino combined for nine triples to help Ozamiz overcome a nine-point deficit, 57-66, in the third quarter en route to their fifth straight victory.

Gov. Rolando Yebes' Hornbills, also supported by Dipolog Mayor Roberto Uy and Dapitan Mayor Dominador Jalosjos Jr., led by seven going into the final period. But they missed their first 10 attempts, enabling Ozamiz to bounce back with an 11-0 blast, 81-77.

Playmaker Restycel Getubig fired back-to-back triples to push the Hornbills back on top, 87-86. But the lead did not last long as Sampilo, who finished with 34 points, and Christian Nicdao waxed hot.

"We underestimated them and we nearly paid dearly for it," said Ozamiz coach Alberto Calvo.

The loss was the second straight for the Hornbills in the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Accel, Molten, Spring Cooking Oil, Cebu Pacific, Philtranco, Sunbolt, Rough Riders Jean, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz Solutions Provider, Prime Channel, Ping Ping Lechon, Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

The scores:

OZAMIZ 94—Sampilo 34, Nicdao 18, Liangco 13, Aquino 9, Rongi 8, Ilanga 4, Cabigkis 4, Butel 4, Corets 0, Conmigo 0, Alvarado 0, Caylan 0, Basco 0, Delina 0, Libatog 0

ZANORTE 87—Arquero 18, Getubig 15, Apepe 13, Dumapig 13, Jaro 12, Damonsong 6, Santander 6, Pumicpic 4, Cularte 0, Dellingan 0, Cuesta 0, Neri 0

Quarters: 24-25, 46-41, 70-77, 94-87

Ripe for a knockout

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

A SPORTSMAN, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita definitely knows his boxing.

He said: "It could be part of body punches meant to weaken the administration."

Secretary Ermita was actually telling reporters what he suspects of the latest controversy linking members of the First Family to *jueteng*.

Ermita felt multimillion peso jueteng pay-offs allegedly received by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and his congressman son Mikey were actually shots aimed to eventually destabilize the government.

Ermita was perfectly right in comparing the alarming *jueteng* allegations to solid punches.

***

In boxing, there is this old dictum that says, "Kill the body and the head dies."

Tested boxing trainers swear this is the surest, shortest way to a knockout.

In fact, this prizefight philosophy is commonly traced as the core behind the continuous worldwide success of Mexican boxers.

Mexican fighters basically are body punchers, or liver-eaters to use a more colorful label.

Boxers who receive punches to the stomach area, mainly directly to the liver portion, inevitably suffer general weakness.

The systematic punishment causes the victim to lose wind and drop his guard.

Crush the body and the head falls, limp and ready, onto the chopping board.

***

To illustrate, there was the epic win scored by Mexican ring legend Julio Cesar Chavez for the world junior welterweight championship at the Las Vegas Hilton in March 1990.

For most of the early rounds, Chavez was being outpunched by mighty Meldrick Taylor.

The more muscular, heftier Taylor continued to land clear shots to the head.

But generally unnoticed, except maybe by sharp-eyed experts at ringside, was the effort being exerted by Chavez who continued to chop quietly into the body of his foe.

While Taylor backers continued to cheer lustily, Chavez was busy lashing at the body, effectively investing inside.

The punches of the Mexican great were so sharp they had become almost imperceptible to the layman.

***

Now listen. Close to the end of the 12th and final round, when the judges were about ready to make a final tally in favor of Taylor, Chavez suddenly shifted tactics.

The peppery Mexican let out a barrage of blows that landed directly, unhampered, to the head.

Taylor, stunned, got caught in the core of the fusillade like a soldier who had walked blindly into machine gun fire.

The poor victim was visibly being torn apart when referee Richard Steele jumped in.

There were a few seconds, only a few ticks left to the final bell, but Steele had to grab and embrace Chavez, now visibly ablaze, to stop the carnage.

Naturally, pandemonium broke out because Taylor would've clearly won had the referee allowed the fight to finish.

***

Anyway, despite the loud protestations, slow-mo replays later showed referee Steel had made the perfect judgment.

Of course, nothing could be more precise than the job done by Chavez, who had first dug into the body to set up Taylor's head for the kill.

That masterful feat by Chavez instantly lent him the rank of immortal among Mexican ring greats.

Meanwhile, Archie Moore, himself a ring legend, had earlier claimed that, in the practice of boxing, it's often more practical to first go to the body because this portion of the fighter's anatomy has no eyes and, therefore, cannot see.

There were other epic chapters in boxing centering on the body, like the Rope-a-Dope adopted by Muhammad Ali in his 1974 Rumble in the Jungle classic against George Foreman, when The Greatest misled and fooled his foe by staying on the ropes for over six rounds before jumping in for the kill.

***

Now, going back to what Secretary Ermita had said in comparing the *jueteng* allegations versus the First Family to body blows in boxing, please take note of a nasty twist in the ouster of former President Joseph Estrada.

In Erap's case, *jueteng* was not used as mere blows to soften the target.

The illegal numbers game, thrown in full force, ultimately turned out to be the knockout punches that toppled (KO'd) Estrada.

Secretary Ermita had a nice way of putting it—body punches meant to destabilize.

Or was Ermita too close to the scene that he had started to also miss the finer details of action.

Why? Because, outside Malacañang, there's this popular view, mainly among the ever-growing mass of the poor and the hungry, that in the case of the GMA administration, there's no need anymore to throw punches to the body.

The sorry features now show it's ripe for a knockout, give and take a few frantic counter-punches.

Sangil, Gonzales lead club champs favorites

FORMER national training pool member Raymund Sangil and former junior standout Katrina Gonzales loom as the players to beat in the inaugural National Tournament of Club Champions starting tomorrow at the giant Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

Sangil and Gonzales are both representing Riviera Golf and Country Club in the tourney presented by Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. and INQUIRER Golf in coordination with the Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines which gather club champions from 24 clubs all over the country.

Sangil will have a horde of possible challengers including former national seniors titleholder Iggy Clavecilla of Alabang, Kevin Tayao of Sta. Elena, the long-hitting John Papa of The Country Club, Marty Ilagan of Southwoods and Rudy Amata, who is the club champion of both Villamor and Aguinaldo.

The National Tournament of Club Champions also supported by Omega and Toyota Innova as major sponsors kicks off with the qualifying stage at the Faldo course, one of the four at Eagle which will all be utilized for the six-day tourney. Tee-off is 7:30 a.m.

Minor sponsors are Titleist as the official ball, Aviva Insurance, Printown, GG&A ClubShares, Nike Golf, Mizuno, Ayala Greenfield Estates, Philippine Airlines as the official carrier, Coppertone Sport and Sunbolt Sports Drink.

The men's champion will win a trip to the HSBC world match play championship at the Wentworth Club in Surrey, England this September while the ladies winner goes to the HSBC ladies world match play tilt in New Jersey, USA this July.

HIGH FLYER: Glenn Aguilar is the main attraction of the 2005 Camel Supercross Invitational Series which started yesterday in Iloilo City.

SPORTSWATCH

Cebu mountain trail run May 29

CEBU CITY—The second Cebu Mountain Trail Run fires off on May 29 in Kalunasan near Guadalupe. Race director Raffy Uytiepo said over 400 runners coming from different running clubs, including Timex, Cebu Executive Runners, A2Z, Cebu Road Runners, Mandaue, Energizer and Prycegas, are expected to join the run backed by the Philippine Sports Commission. The other sponsors are Skygo Motorcycles Mackmayer Printers, Waterfresh Purified Drinking Water, Coppertone, Energizer, Ben Café, Southgate Tyre Express, & DOT Sports, Yamato Provimin Vegetablet, Prycegas, Casa Ilongga, Manila Foodshoppe and Pharmaton Capsules. Defending champion Tirso Pamaybay will be challenged by Ireland's Francis Costgrave, a five-time Mt. Kinabalu Climbathon veteran. In the distaff side, reigning titlist Sharon Vega will have to ward off Cebu star Christy Sevilleno and recent Adlaw Sang Iloilo champion Joeyry Lee. Registration is on at the PSC Region VII office at the Cebu City Sports Center.

2nd Mayon Marathon in Albay

THE SECOND staging of the Mayon Marathon unreels in Legazpi City on May 27-29 as part of the month-long celebration of Albay's Magayon Festival. Categories include a 3-km "Marafun" for children and students aged 15 years and below, a 5-km marathon and 10-km road run for runners aged 15 above, a 21-km half marathon and a 42-km marathon for aged 18 and above. The Marafun will start from the Legazpi City seawall boulevard, while the 5-k run will commence from the scenic Cagsawa Ruins Park in Daraga. Call 0917-6280129 or 0919-7715209 or log on to www.albay.tourism.gov.ph for details.

Registration on for Monsay High golf

REGISTRATION is now in full swing for the first Monsay High Cup golf tournament organized by the Ramon Magsaysay High School-Espana batch '83 for the upgrade of the school's computer and auditorium equipment on May 27 at the Club Intramuros. Tee-off time is between 1 and 3 p.m. For tickets, call 631-7279, 525-9318 local 215 and 526-6877; log on to http://groups.yahoo.com/rmhs1983.

GCAP Grand Derby today at LPC

THE GENTLEMEN Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) will hold its "Grand Championship 5–Cock One Day Derby" today at the air-conditioned Las Piñas Coliseum. With more than 60 fights lined up, the first fight is set at 6 p.m. Attention will be focused on the battle for GCAP' s Cocker of the Year award, with seven contenders expected to go all-out. They are Gerry Ramos (Against All Odds, 32 points); Benjie Lim (Burahod Nim Kauswagan, 32); Dini Cuenca and Dante Hinlo (Dini and Dante, 31.5); William Go (JU AS WG Listana, 31); Tony Lasala (NML SP, 30.5); Lim (Love U Papa, 30) and Patrick Antonio (Complexor 3000, 28). Also seeing action are 330 K Big Event Part II champions Pol Estrellado and Dicky Lim, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Pepito Ngo, ASF Farms, Tonette Luzuriaga, Paeng Araneta, Tony Marfori, Tito Reyes, Mayor Ashley Arayata, Rudy Albano, among others. Call 873–1040 and 874–3910 for details.

Aussie longshot wins . . .

From page A25

The journeyman struggled to post a 74 and wound up tied with his nephew Juvic together with Ruangkit, who ballooned to a 76, Darren Griff of Canada (74), first-round leader Andrew Buckle (71) and Malaysian Danny Chia (68).

Cassius Casas, the 2001 champ who started the third round on Saturday just one off the lead, eagled the 18th for the second straight day and signed for a 70 and a 285 total, one behind a seven-man group at 11th that included Antonio Lascuna (73).

Rick Gibson, a Canadian married to a Filipina and another former RP Open winner, birdied his last three holes to shoot a similar 70 and wind up in a large group of 286 scorers in 23rd place, which also included Filipino amateur Jay Bayron (71).

The 13th leg of the Asian Tour was co-presented by San Miguel and ICTSI and was supported by Pagcor, PAL, Hanjin heavy industries, Aboitiz Group, Petron Blaze, PCSO and DOT with Lima City Hotel as the official hotel and Mt. Malarayat Hotel the official home.

Omega was the official timer and was a partner of the event like BMG Solar, Konica U-Bix, Human by Bench, C2 iced tea of Universal Robina Corp., Centennial Savings Bank, Patio Pacific Boracay, Mizuno and the Mt. Malarayat Inn.

Ladies pair tops Forest Hills Invt'l

ANTIPOLO CITY—All Tess Staub wanted was to have fun and play a good game on her birthday. She got more than what she wished for.

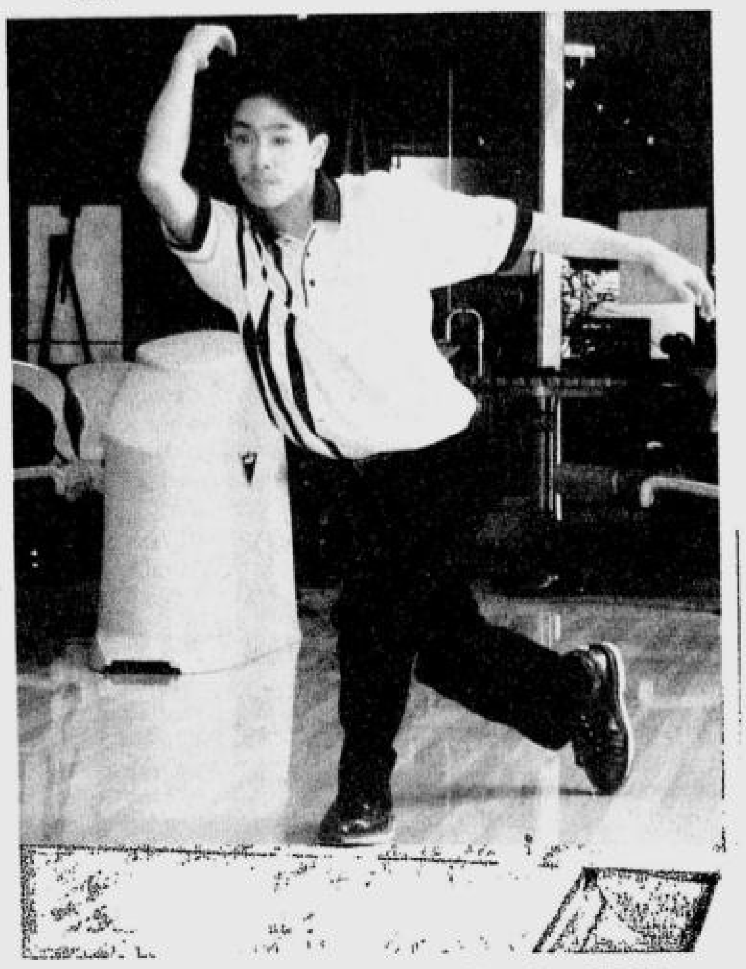
Staub and guest partner Beth Menchavez won the overall championship Saturday in the annual Invitational tournament held at the posh Forest Hills Golf and Country Club.

Using the modified Stableford System, they posted 51 points under the Best Ball format on the first day and followed it up with an 88 on the Aggregate format for a two-day total 139 points.

Stephen Hay and Korean Jeff Kim also shared honors with the lady pair. Hay won the grandest prize during the awarding ceremony—a brand new Hyundai Getz car courtesy of Hyundai-E. Rodriguez Sr. Wheels Distributors—while Kim received his hole-in-one prize—a Wilson golf set from Wilson Sports-Sports Specialist Worldwide.

Pacsports, Sun Cellular and Golforce Inc. presented the Invitational, now on its fifth edition, together with major sponsors Turf Company and Citibank.

Alexi's Jewelers, Asian Spirit, Camp John Hay Manor, Coppertone, Esprit Time Ware, Federal Chemicals, Foodlink, GMA 7, Group Mngt. Dev., Jewelmer, Lipovitan, Mega Primus Consumer Products, MRT, Phil. Charity Sweepstakes Office, Seaboard-Eastern Insurance, Solar Sports, Splash Island, and Zest-O were the other backers.



PERFECT GAMER: Jayson Tubid, a 12-year-old member of TBAM Juniors and Team Prima, rolled 12 strikes in a row for a perfect 300 game during the 13th TBAM Juniors-Prima Pasta Open Championships at the Powerbowl Center in Rockwell Center, making him the youngest perfect gamer in a Philippine Bowling Congress-sanctioned event. Tubid is a member of the national youth training pool.

Panabo bets keep overall supremacy

By Dennis U. Eroa
INQUIRER Libre sports editor

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Panabo City dominated three divisions yesterday and extended its reign in the National Youth and Women's Amateur Boxing Championship at the Puerto Princesa Coliseum here.

Showing the ability to handle tremendous pressure, the Panabo pugs ruled the kids, cadet and junior categories to retain the overall trophy they've won last year in their hometown.

"The secret of our success is a sustained boxing development program," said delegation head Gene-Rose Ferrazzini, and chief-of-staff of Davao del Norte (2nd district) Rep. Tonyboy Floirendo, grandfather of Panabo boxing." Rep. Floirendo has been supporting these boxers all the way."

Bago City, a traditional boxing power and hometown of Olympian Leopoldo Cantancio, prevented a Panabo sweep by topping the schoolboys division with two golds and one silver.

Panabo was second with one gold, one silver and two bronzes.

South Cotabato/Gina Marquez shone in the female category by winning four golds, followed by Puerto Princesa with one gold, one silver, one bronze tally. Baguio pocketed two silvers.

All in all Floirendo's charges won a total of eight golds.

Host Puerto Princesa also shone in this weeklong slugfest with three golds, including Gretchen Abaniel's thrilling 21-18 victory over Palawan's Josie Gabuco in the pinweight finals.

The win boosted the host province to second overall.

Cotabato Province actually had more gold with five, but took third overall due to the quirk of the point system which also put premium on the number of silver and bronze medals won.

"We're satisfied with our performance considering that most of our pugs are newcomers," said City Councilor Roger Castro. "Congratulations to Panabo and the rest of the participants."

Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn and the city council of Puerto Princesa in cooperation with the Amateur boxing Association of the Philippines hosted the event.

Panabo's Celestino Revamonte Jr. was picked as best judge of the tournament. Luisito Tinagsa was named best referee.

The gold medalists for Panabo were: Rodel Rino (cottonweight), Charlie Suarez (light bantamweight); Randolf Bacood (light cotton); Radjie Tabanao (light kiddie); Glen Canteveros (junior paperweight); Jaime Quitoriano (flyweight), Rolando Omila (bantamweight), Francis Cutamora (lightweight).

Alcano: Bata Reyes' most dangerous rival

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

YOUTHFUL billiards player Ronnie Alcano is the emerging talent of 2005. In my opinion, he is not out of place with the likes of former world champion Efren "Bata" Reyes, flamboyant Francisco "Django" Bustamante and reigning World Pool champ Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan.

With his explosive breaks and masterful execution of shots, the 32-year-old Alcano could very well be the player to reckon with in this year's All-Filipino 9-Ball Open on May 26-29. Alcano is also among the favorites in the fourth and final leg of the San Miguel Asian Tour qualifying tournament at Bowling Inn to earn a slot in the Philippine team that will see action in the windup leg of this year's Asian Tour.

The only local pool pro who has beaten the veteran Reyes in rotation, which is the toughest game in billiards, Alcano will join a powerhouse six-man Philippine team in the Asian Tour. The other members of the RP team are Reyes, his longtime buddy Django Bustamante, opening-leg winner Gandy Valle and veterans Ramil Gallego and Antonio Lining.

"I have no doubt that this will be the strongest Philippine team ever assembled for the Asian Tour," said sports patron and billiards godfather Aristeo "Putch" Puyat. "Any of the six has a good chance of emerging the winner."

Of the six Filipino pool pros, Alcano is the one who bears watching. I consider him an ideal player who can take over when age and other human factors catch up with our veteran pool pros such as Reyes, who cannot be on top forever. Reyes, now 50 years old, is not getting any younger. We must realize this and be prepared.

A few years back, Alcano, then a virtual unknown, won the SMB "Rising Stars of 9-Ball Tournament" which featured champions of the future among them, SEA Games gold medal winners Lee Van Corteza and Romeo Villanueva, former German Open champion Antonio Gabica, Ramil "Bebeng" Gallego, Venancio Tanio and veteran Edgar Acaba.

Now on its third year, the four-leg San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour offers a total cash prize of $200,000. Davao City's Gandy Valle, 31, won the first leg in Singapore; Bata Reyes topped the second leg in Jakarta while hometown bet Yang Ching-shun won the third leg in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

In 2004, Reyes won three legs of the Tour's five legs, prevailing in Singapore, Ho Chi Minh City and Taipei. Yang, 2002 Busan Asian Games 9-ball singles gold medalist, ruled the Hong Kong leg while Corteza triumphed in Manila.

The SMB Asian 9-Ball Tour is sanctioned by the Asian Pocket Billiards Union and organized by ESPN Star Sports' Event Management Group.

Besides the total prize money of $200,000 up for grabs, the top 10 players on the Tour Order of Merit every year will qualify for the annual World Pool Championships. Incidentally this year's World Pool Championship will be held at the Kaohsiung Exhibition Center on Saturday, July 2, with Alex Pagulayan defending his crown. It will end on Sunday evening, July 10.

A total of $350,000 will be at stake again, with $75,000 going to the winner. Some 128 players from more than 40 countries will be going head-to-head in this blue-ribbon affair promoted by Matchroom Sports and sanctioned by the World Pool Association, the sport's governing body. Aside from Pagulayan, also confirmed entries are previous champions Thorsten Hohmann of Germany, Earl Strickland of the United States, Mike Immonen of Finland, Chao Fong-pang of host Chinese-Taipei and the game's biggest name, Efren "Bata" Reyes.

***

BACK IN THE GROOVE. Earl Barron, Red Bull's 6-foot-11 new import from Memphis, Tennessee, is doing wonders for Barako coach Yeng Guiao. In his first three appearances with the Photokina franchise, the hardworking Barron sparked Red Bull to three straight lopsided victories over sister teams Purefoods (101-85), Coca-Cola (90-80) and Barangay Ginebra (94-85).

Although nobody expected Barron to turn things around so quickly, I still say that a large part of the team's resurgence was possible only because of Barron's heroics in both offense and defense. For example, in his most recent stint against Ginebra on Saturday in Bacolod City, Barron scored 29 points and hauled down eight rebounds. His presence has given local players Rico Villanueva, Lordy Tugade, Junthy Valenzuela, Nelson Asaytono, Vergel Meneses and Cyrus Baguio a new lease on life and newfound confidence. It won't be long before Red Bull is back in contention again.

For his part, coach Yeng Guiao said in an interview: "Even though Earl is still adjusting to the hot weather here, you can see from the way he is playing now that this team feels better about him. He motivates the locals in the team."

Red Bull is now 9-8 in the team standings.

Samsung Tour resumes

AFTER a drama-filled Montecillo Cup at Manila Southwoods last week, jungolfers go out of town again with the eighth leg of the Samsung Jungolf Tour set to start today at the short but tricky Calatagan Golf Club course in Calatagan, Batangas.

The 18-hole tourney will be played in two different stages, the first day being the parent-and-child event and the next two days stroke play, which will determine the champions in various age divisions.

Raoul Lachica, president of Jungolf, expects a number of players, their parents and their siblings to take the challenge of Calatagan, a rolling course designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr.

Calatagan, through its general manager Tommy Manotoc, has provided special rates in accommodations for those playing this week.

The tourney will also serve as the final warm-up of national delegations leaving for competitions in Korea, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Set to leave this week are those vying for honors in the Asia-Pacific junior golf championships in Korea, bannered by top bets Dottie Ardina and Wolen Superal, the 100 Plus Invitational in Indonesia and the Malaysian Jungolf in Kuala Lumpur.

2 cagers off to adidas camp

THOMAS Babilonia and Francis Miguel Maniego left for Shanghai, China, yesterday, thrilled over the rare opportunity to be with some of the NBA's greatest players, including the legendary Kareem Abdul Jabbar, in the adidas Superstar Camp Series unfolding today.

Babilonia and Maniego, two of the country's top high school cagers, will be with 28 other youths from the Asia Pacific region in the weeklong camp with current and former NBA stars and coaches.

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	60 mg Tab	12.00	68%
RM METOPROLOL*	50 mg Tab	3.00	75%
	100 mg Tab	5.00	76%
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RM SIMVASTATIN*	20 mg Tab	25.50	52%
	40 mg Tab	31.15	36%
ANTI-DIABETES			
RM GLICLAZIDE*	80 mg Tab	Php 5.75	55%
RM METFORMIN*	500 mg Tab	4.30	56%
	850 mg Tab	7.00	57%

PRODUCTS		Suggested Retail Price	% Savings Per Week
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RM SALBUTAMOL*	2 mg Tab	2.00	65%
	2 mg Syr x 60 mL	43.00	60%
VITAMINS			
RM ASCORBIC	500 mg Tab	1.00	80%
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RM MEFENAMIC	250 mg Tab	3.50	70%
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*This product is also available in all leading and DSAP member drugstores upon presentation of the prescriptions

Federer feels he can win French Open

PARIS—Roger Federer has shrugged off the hovering menace of Rafael Nadal to insist he has his greatest opportunity to win an elusive French Open crown when the second Grand Slam tournament of the season starts here on Monday.

The 23-year-old world No. 1 has a mediocre record on the Roland Garros clay courts. In six visits, he has never gotten beyond the quarterfinals and has lost in the first round three times.

Last year, his hopes ended in the third round where the banana skin draw of triple champion Gustavo Kuerten turned out to be a booby-trap as the Brazilian cruised to victory in straight sets.

Twelve months on, top-seed Federer is favorite again and has been handed a gentle draw before a potential semifinal clash with the 18-year-old Nadal.

"I don't see it as being such an unbelievably tough draw, I'm not worried about playing anybody," said Federer, who faces a qualifier in his opener before a potential fourth round clash with former champion Carlos Moya.

"People might think it's tough because Nadal is in my section. That would be in the semifinals. So if I am there, I will be very happy." Federer is still taking sensible precautions hiring the 1966 champion Tony Roche as coach in an effort to maximize his chances.

Nadal is not the only threat to Federer from becoming just the sixth man ever to win all four Grand Slam tournaments.

Other dangers include defending champion Gaston Gaudio, 2004 runner-up Guillermo Coria as well as world number two Andy Roddick and evergreen former champion Andre Agassi.

One potential obstacle was removed when former world number one Lleyton Hewitt was forced out of the tournament with a rib injury.

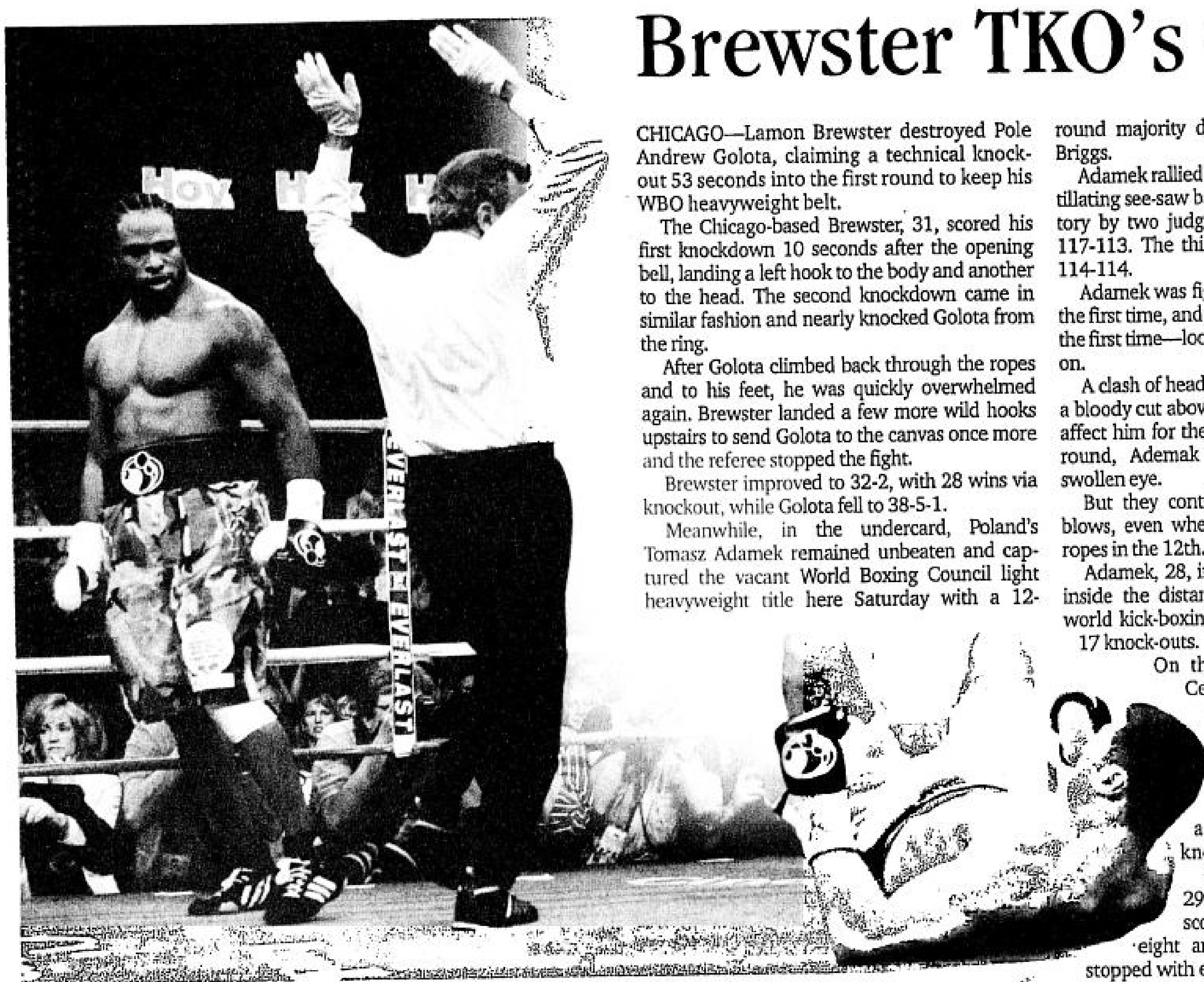
But Richard Gasquet and Marat Safin, the only two men who have beaten Federer this year, cannot be discounted from upsetting the Swiss who, nevertheless, warmed up for Paris by defending his Hamburg Masters title last week without dropping a set.

It also stretched his record to 19 successive winning finals.

Eighteen-year-old Nadal is the most dangerous rival here with the muscular Spaniard having clinched five titles this season including back-to-back Masters on clay in Monte Carlo and Rome, beating Coria on both occasions. *AFP*

IN PHOENIX, everything orbits around Steve Nash.

Brewster TKO's Golota



LAMON Brewster (left) watches as referee Gino Rodriguez (C) gestures the end over a fallen Andrew Golota. AFP

CHICAGO—Lamon Brewster destroyed Pole Andrew Golota, claiming a technical knockout 53 seconds into the first round to keep his WBO heavyweight belt.

The Chicago-based Brewster, 31, scored his first knockdown 10 seconds after the opening bell, landing a left hook to the body and another to the head. The second knockdown came in similar fashion and nearly knocked Golota from the ring.

After Golota climbed back through the ropes and to his feet, he was quickly overwhelmed again. Brewster landed a few more wild hooks upstairs to send Golota to the canvas once more and the referee stopped the fight.

Brewster improved to 32-2, with 28 wins via knockout, while Golota fell to 38-5-1.

Meanwhile, in the undercard, Poland's Tomasz Adamek remained unbeaten and captured the vacant World Boxing Council light heavyweight title here Saturday with a 12-round majority decision over Australian Paul Briggs.

Adamek rallied in the closing rounds of a scintillating see-saw battle and was awarded the victory by two judges by scores of 115-113 and 117-113. The third judge scored it a draw at 114-114.

Adamek was fighting in the United States for the first time, and fought past the 10th round for the first time—looking stronger as the fight went on.

A clash of heads in the second left Briggs with a bloody cut above his left eye that continued to affect him for the rest of the fight. By the third round, Ademak was fighting with a badly swollen eye.

But they continued to exchange punishing blows, even when Ademak had Briggs on the ropes in the 12th.

Adamek, 28, improved to 29-0 with 20 wins inside the distance. Briggs, 29 and a former world kick-boxing champion, fell to 23-2, with 17 knock-outs.

On the same card at the United Center, home of the National Basketball Association's Chicago Bulls, Alejandro Garcia won the World Boxing Association interim super welterweight title with a ninth-round technical knockout of Rhoshii Wells.

Garcia improved to 29-1, with 29 wins inside the distance. He scored knockdowns in rounds eight and nine before the bout was stopped with eight seconds to go in the ninth. *AFP*

Hot Perry pace

FORT WORTH, Texas—Kenny Perry is turning the Colonial into his personal playground in shooting 6-under 64 to set another scoring record and take a seven-stroke lead on Saturday going into the final round.

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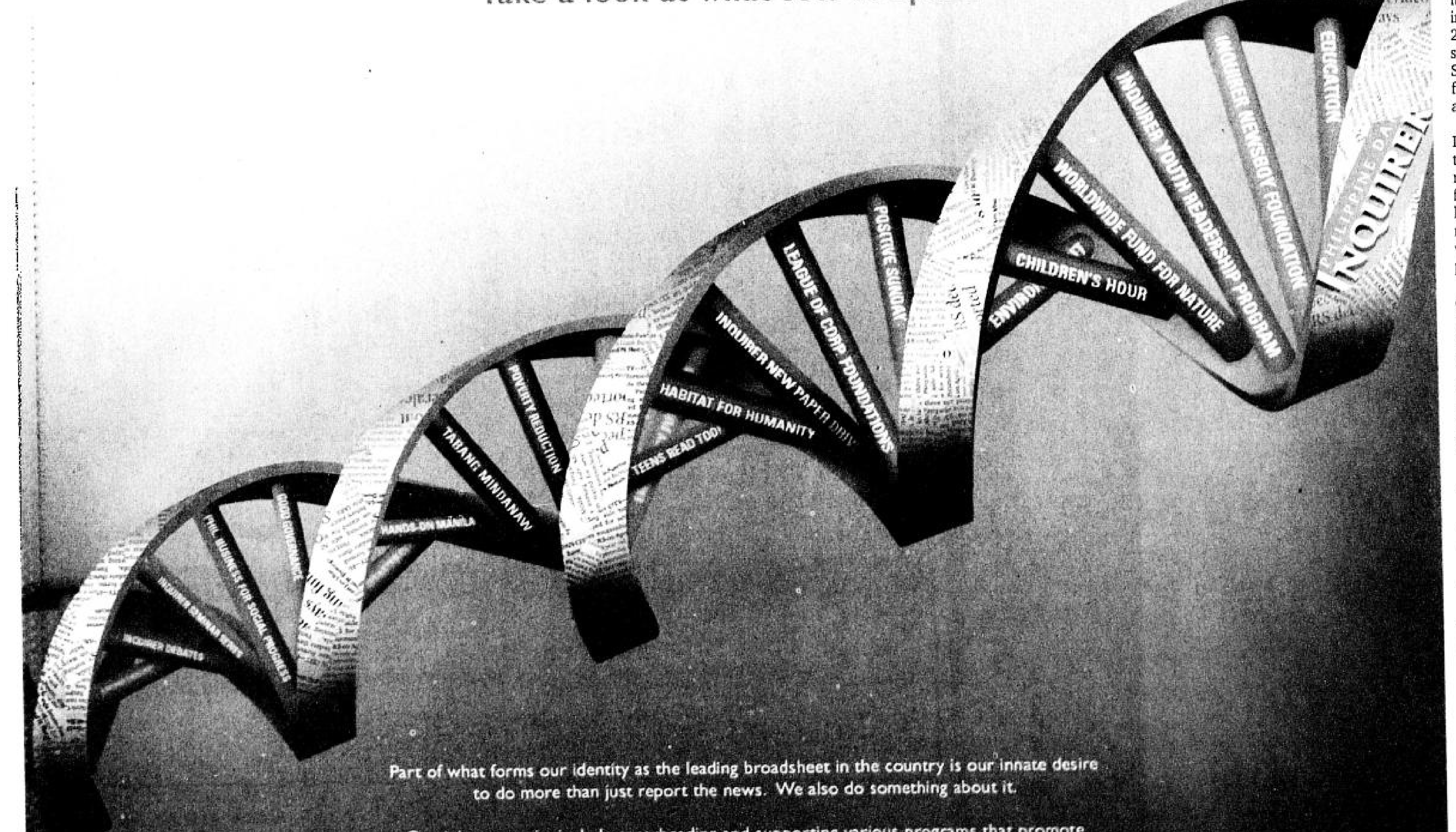
Take a look at what sets us apart.



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Suns, Spurs open Western battle

PHOENIX—With an offense as relentless as the Arizona heat, the Phoenix Suns are trampling the conventional wisdom about defense being the way to go this time of year.

Through two rounds of the playoffs, MVP Steve Nash and crew have taken the league's highest scoring average in 10 years and jacked it up nearly six points a game. They've done it while facing tricked-up defenses that have had more time to study them, and without their third-leading scorer in the last four games.

Now comes the real challenge: Doing it in the Western Conference finals against the San Antonio Spurs, who are perfectly cast in the role of upholding conventional wisdom.

San Antonio has won two of the last six championships with defense. The Spurs allowed the fewest points in the league this season and recently had Tim Duncan and Bruce Bowen, their best inside and outside stoppers, receive their seemingly annual spots on the NBA's all-defensive team.

They also come into this series well-tested, having already eliminated high-scoring teams in the Denver Nuggets and Seattle SuperSonics.

"It will be a very big challenge for us," said Nash, whose personal challenge will be topping his phenomenal second-round series against Dallas. "If we continue to show the pressure and poise we've shown all season, we'll be all right."

Both teams probably wish the series wasn't starting for another day or two, but this matchup of contrasting styles is so compelling that ABC couldn't wait to get it on the air.

The Spurs advanced late Thursday with a last-second victory in Seattle. They flew home Friday, saw the Suns advance with an overtime victory against the Mavericks that night, then headed to Phoenix on Saturday.

San Antonio players admitted they were rooting for Dallas in Game 6, not because they wanted to duck the Suns but because they wanted more down time.

"I was at a restaurant and people heard me cussing," Spurs forward Robert Horry said, laughing.

The Spurs also were hoping Duncan would have more rest for his ailing ankles. He didn't practice Saturday and coach Gregg Popovich listed him as probable for the opener.

"We're not going to do something to jeopardize Tim's health or our team's chances for success," Popovich said. "If he can't play, he's not going to play. If he can play at all, there's going to be no way to keep him off the court."

Phoenix was hoping guard Joe Johnson might return to the lineup Sunday if he could adjust to a mask protecting the bone he broke near his left eye. However, as of Saturday, he'd seen only a prototype of the mask and he's not going to try playing until he gets comfortable with the real thing.

"I'm hoping to get back as soon as I can, but I'm not going to rush it," he said.

Johnson's absence hasn't hurt the team's point totals, but it has taken a toll on their legs. Jim Jackson has been pushed into the starting lineup, taking away the best player from an otherwise thin bench.

Still, the Suns never seemed worn out in the second round against Dallas—especially not when they erased a 16-point third-quarter deficit and won the finale in overtime. In yet another example of how they can be kept down but not out, the Suns went from scoring 64 points the first 32 minutes to putting up 66 in the final 21.

Suns coach Mike D'Antoni isn't surprised. He even expected his team's scoring average to go up in the playoffs.

"In the regular season, there were some nights when we just didn't have it," he said. "I knew that in the playoffs we were going to have it every night."

The Suns will have public sentiment on their side, too. Besides offering a playing style that's refreshing to fans bored by the slug-it-out games usually seen this deep in the playoffs, they're a great story.

After winning just 29 games last year, Phoenix lured Nash from Dallas and rescued Quentin Richardson from the Clippers. Both moves raised eyebrows, Nash because of the huge financial commitment (six years, more than $60 million) and Richardson because his game seemed so similar to other players the Suns already had.

Phoenix started strong and never let up. They won 62 games, marking the third-biggest turnaround in league history and tops since Duncan joined the Spurs in 1997. Skeptics who spent months saying the Suns couldn't keep it up are now wondering whether they can be stopped four times in seven games.

They're 8-2 in the playoffs and have scored at least 106 every game. Their average.of 116 points, and the way they do it, harkens memories of the Showtime-era Los Angeles Lakers that featured Magic Johnson, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and James Worthy, all of them Hall of Famers.

The Spurs are more likely to be compared to the '85 Chicago Bears or other great NFL defenses. Yet that didn't stop Popovich from noting that his club likes to run, too.

"Nobody wants to believe that, I guess," he said.

If the Spurs decide to keep it up, then this series could be even more exciting than their three regular-season matchups, and those were pretty juicy.

San Antonio won the first, ending Phoenix's longest winning streak in seven seasons at 11 games. The Suns bounced back to win the next two, but they needed double overtime in January. *AP*

es Colonial tilt

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re at the end of
e US PGA Tour
gh Joe Ogilvie's
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Through 54 holes, Perry has just one bogey—on No. 8, his 17th hole on Thursday. He has made 51-of-54 putts from 15 feet or less, including a 5-footer after blasting from the sand to avoid a closing bogey on Saturday. *AP*

a Salle regains ad in V-League

LLE pummeled under-
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nly five points.

neo continued to flash
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opposition, bringing
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hampion University of Santo Tomas, 21-25, 25-22, 25-17, 18-25, 15-11, in the second game to gain solo third.

It was the Lady Eagles' second straight five-set victory, which observers believe would serve them in good stead in their bid to come up with a strong finish on their very first try.

The Tigresses took their second defeat in three games.

The Lady Pirates suffered their third straight setback, their losing stand hastened by the absence of top hitter Angelica Bigcas and libero Shella Marga.

Bigcas, the best scorer in the first conference last year before the league decided to add reinforcements, re-injured her right shoulder in a loss to defending champion University of Santo Tomas Thursday at the Lyceum Gym.

aikkonen takes onaco GP pole

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79. However, Raikko-
d a big lead from Sat-
s qualifying.

second qualifying session ran four hours before Sunday's race.

It may be the last time qualifying is spread over two days after the teams voted unanimously to change to Saturday qualifying only.

The sport's governing body and the Formula One commission may approve the plan in time for next weekend's European GP in Nuerburgring, Germany.

Raikkonen won the Spanish GP two weeks ago and led the San Marino Grand Prix until a driveshaft problem knocked him out of the race. Both times he had the pole position.

Mark Webber, in a Williams-BMW, was third in 2:31.65.

Michael Schumacher started early after dropping out of the last race for Ferrari and came in eighth quickest. *AP*

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Antonio draws with 2 super GMs, stays in contention

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota—Filipino Grandmaster Rogelio "Joey" Antonio Jr. posted two consecutive draws against tough opponents late Saturday to stay in contention in the HB Global Chess challenge late Saturday at the Minneapolis Convention Center here.

The 43-year-old Antonio missed the winning lines, allowing former world championships challenger and super GM Gata Kamsky (Elo 2700) to salvage a draw in the sixth round via "perpetual check" after 73 moves of a Caro Kann in the morning session and then halved the point with reigning US Open champion super GM Hikaru Nakamura (Elo 2657) after 59 moves of a French Defense in the evening session.

"I could have won both games," lamented Antonio, who raised his total to 5.0 points with two rounds to go, in Filipino. " I was up by one piece over Kamsky but I didn't notic ehis perpetual check. I only have 2 minutes against Nakamura's 5 so I wasn't able to find the winning lines.

Antonio, a native of Calapan, Oriental Mindoro, was tied with US-based Anton Paolo Del Mundo, a software engineer in Microstrategy in Virginia, who beat GM Gregory Serper after 63 moves of a Slav Defense in the sixth round and beat Fide Master Alex Baladin after 49 moves of a Caro-Kann Defense in the seventh round.

Slovania super GM Alexander Beliasvky (Elo 2660) defeated erstwhile co-leader Dutch super SM Loek Van Wely (Elo 2681) to grab the solo lead with 6.5 points in the open section.

Russian GM Evgeny Najer and Georgian GM Zviad Izoria shared second to third places with 6.0 points apiece.

Grandmaster Nelson Mariano II, IMs Jayson Gonzales and Angelo Young scored contrasting victories to accumulate 4.5 points each.

Mariano trounced Shivkumar Shivaji; Gonzales scalped FM Genden Altan-och and Young took the measure of Tigran Ishkhanov.

Reigning Asian 3.2a zonal champ IM Ronald Dableo (4.0 points) beat Victor Plotkin, 2004 National Open ruler NM Darwin Laylo (4.0) bowed to American GM Nick De Firmian, Cebuano IM Enrico Sevillano (4.5) bowed to Estonian super grandmaster Jaan Ehlvest. NM Eduardo Ortiz (4.0) drew with Andrew Lee, NM Winston Silva (3.0) halved the point with Denis Strenzwilk, US Master Reynaldo Del Pilar (3.0) nipped Charles Frey, Almario Marlon Bernardino Jr. (2.5) defeated Christian Tanaka and William Aramil (3.0) crushed Thomas Magar.

Still in contention in their respective division were Philippine Christian University standout Leo Daylo Jr. with 4.0 points in the U-2200, former world championships representative Karl Victor Ochoa (6.5 in the U-2000), John Ferdinand Versoza, (5.0 and Emeliano Bayer (4.5). *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

Sacrifice: Badminton star's key to success

By Jasmine W. Payo

HE RECEIVED a lavish welcome after winning Indonesia's only gold medal in the 2004 Olympics.

But surprisingly, all the attention still overwhelmed Taufik Hidayat, the badminton men's singles champion in Athens.

"It was fantastic," said Hidayat yesterday at the close of the INQUIRER Badminton Expo at the Megatrade Hall 2 in Megamall. "I liked it very much. I was happy that I'm being recognized not only in Indonesia but also here in the Philippines."

Although known for his off-court temper, Hidayat brought a refreshing aura and shared some tips to aspiring Filipino shuttlers.

"If you want to be really good, you have to sacrifice a lot of things," said Hidayat, who along with 2005 Swiss Open champion Hafiz Hashim of Malaysia, drew hundreds of enthusiasts in their two-day Yonex-Sunrise Exhibition Match.

"Once you decide to become a badminton player, you have to let go of other things in your mind," said Hidayat, noting he once favored soccer over badminton. "You have to concentrate, like I had to practice everyday."

Hashim added it took total dedication before he developed his skills to world-class level.

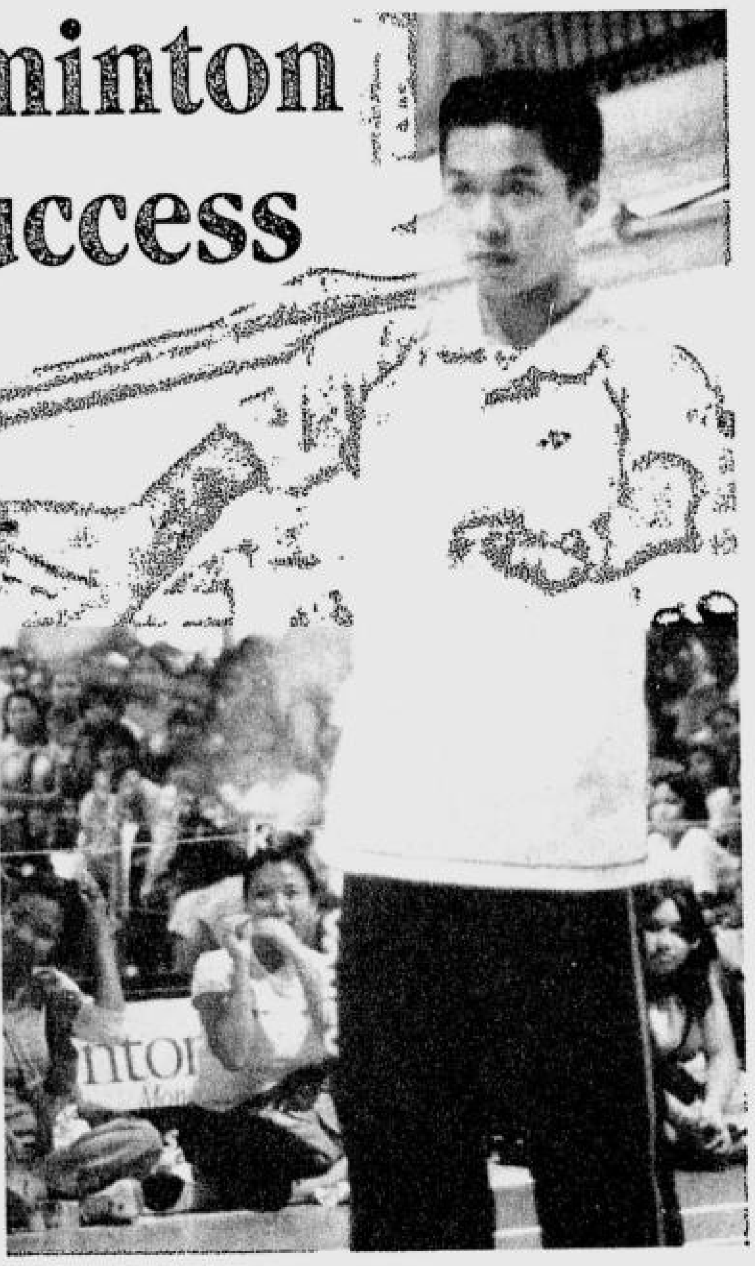
"You have to sacrifice your time," said Hashim, who started playing badminton at 8 years old. "It's good to start young and at 15 or 16 years old, you should already be playing in high-level competitions."

For national team coach Martin Araneta, badminton is already heading in the right direction locally.

"With the badminton boom here in our country, people are now seeing it as a serious sport and not just a backyard game," said Araneta, who also presented the RP team members led by top seed Lloyd Escoces, Ian Piencenaves and Alma Ledesma, during their badminton clinic.

Hidayat and Hashim also awarded the trophies to Inquirer Bulilit Tournament champs Jan Banquiles and Gelita Castillo of Alabang Racquet Club-Mizuno. Banquiles and Castillo overpowered Carlos Antonio Cayanan and Nicole John Ureta of Hearty Plus-Kason, 21-8.

AC Chan and Julius Lagdamen of Teebox-San Juara placed second after edging Camille Chu and D. Macaraig of Sportshouse, 21-13.



HIDAYAT: Reception was fantastic

ROMY HOMILLADA

Orcullo, Corteza cruise past rivals

BIG guns Dennis Orcullo, Lee Vann Corteza and Antonio Gabica hurdled their respective opening matches in the qualifying round of the Hope P1-Million All-Filipino Billiards Open II yesterday at the AMF-Puyat Billiards Hall in Ever Gotesco Commonwealth.

Orcullo blanked Eric Sandoval, 7-0; Corteza thrashed Jarry Guevarra, 7-2; and Gabica nipped Jojo Aruejo, 7-5.

The top eight finishers in the three-day event sanctioned by the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines headed by Ernesto Fajardo and organized by Puyat Sports will advance to the main draw on May 26-29 at the LS-2 Studio of IBC 13.

Actions in the main draw will be aired live on IBC 13 through Jemah Television from 8:30-11 p.m.

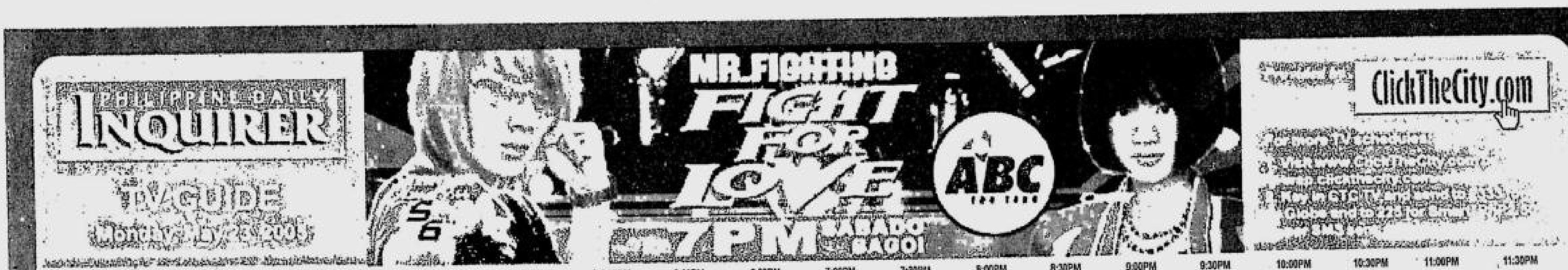
RP Women booters clobber Malaysians

THE PHILIPPINE Women's football team clobbered Malaysia, 6-1, Saturday at the NSC Complex in Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur, at the start of the "Pre-SEA Games 2005 International Triangular Tournament."

The Philippines got two goals from Fil-Am Angeline Impelido, a picture-perfect header from a Clarissa Lazaro cross; two goals from Marielle Benitez, UAAP women's footballer and athlete of the year 2003; and one each from De La Salle University star Clarissa Lazaro and veteran striker Rhea Penales.

Completing the eighteen-member 'Pinay' squad in Kuala Lumpur are Merlie Acibar, Merlo Albano, Letecia Bautista, Marielle Benitez, Levelyn Camarillo, Rachelle de los Reyes, Angeline Impelido, Joyce Landagan, Clarissa Lazaro, Bertha Lina, Jo Loren, Michelle Manrique, Melissa Marquez, Sam Nierras, Rhea Penales, Malou Rubio, Marti Plaza and Andrea Yang.

Head coach is Marlon Maro and assistant is Freddie Estacion. Others in the staff include Florante Valencia (goal Keeper coach) and Vic Balaoing (Physiotherapist).



Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Showbiz No. 1 (4:25PM)	Yu-Gi-Oh! (5.10PM)	Meteor Garden Full Edition		TV Patrol World		Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Hiram	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Memories Of Bali	Stained Glass	OK Fine! Whatever			Insider
ABC 5			Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	EZ Shop	Anime Ring Kasho				Sentro	Friends	The Apprentice		Fear Factor		Big News	Pops!		Bilboard On-Air	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Glass Shoes	One Piece	Flame Of Recca	Full House		24 Oras		Darna		Encantadia	All About Eve	Extra Challenge Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita			Sakal		
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping	Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob		NBA On RPN					Biggest Loser		Newswatch Now	Sex & the City	Curse For Truth	
IBC 13		Lifestyle		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		Home Shopping Network		Trinidad-Wright W/ Undercard					IBC News Tonite	Linawin Natin	
JackTV	Street Smarts	Worst Case Scenario		Wave Host		WWE Velocity		Cheat	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Kid Notorious	Comedy Central Presents	Insomniac W/ Dave Attell	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Blue Collar TV	Banzai	Joe Schmo Show	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Yakkity Yak	Chalkzone	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
MYX		Urban MYX		Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	OPM MYX Countdown		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Complete Savages	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Eliminidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Friends	Will & Grace	The O.C.		Queer eye For The Straight Guy		Entertainment Tonight Weekend		Who Wants To Marry My Dad 2	
Studio 23		Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Super Gals	My MYX	Ragnarok	Project Arms	Wazzup Wazzup	Fightbox	Tru Calling		Charmed		News Central	The West Wing		Travel Time
AXN		Lost		The Contender		Gensomaden Saiyuki	Gensomaden Saiyuki	Pensacola (Season III)		Alias (Season II)		Fear Factor (Season V)		The Contender		CSI: Miami (Season II)		CSI: Miami (Season II)	
Star World	Word TV	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	The King Of Queens	Still Standing	Grounded For Life/ Yes Dear	Frasier	Boston Public		Friends	The King Of Queens
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News	Living Golf	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic		Built For The Kill		Totally Wild	Wildlife Diary	Be The Creature		Egypt Detectives: Mystery Of The First Egyptians	Africa From The Ground Up	Wow		About Asia		National Geographic Specials/When Animals Attack		Built For The Kill		Totally Wild/ Animals Like Us/ Politics/Medicine/ Adoption/Tool Use	Wildlife Diary
Solar Sports		WTA '05 Pacific Life Open Indian Wells, USA					The Badminton Masters '05 SFinals			Sagupaan		NBA Jam L924	Sports Desk	NBA Playoffs Conf. SFinals Game7					Destination Finals
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Food 911	E! True Hollywood Story		NY Fashion Week	Life & Style		Brini Maxwell Show	Modern Girl's Guide	Breaking Room	Genuine Article
HBO	Midnight Heat			The Nutty Professor			Lost In Translation (5.35PM)			The Next Karate Kid (7.15PM)				The Matrix Reloaded				Mard X (11:15PM)	
Star Movies		Opening Night	No Way Out				Roommates				Like Mike (7:20 PM)			Snowman's Pass			Life Or Something Like It (10:40PM)		
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	Ed, Edd N Eddy	Mucha Lucha!	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Gundam Wing	Shaman King	Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Dexter's Laboratory	Time Squad	Thundercats	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe	Gundam Seed
Disney Channel	Mr Bean The Animated Series	Totally Spies	The Sleepover Club	Art Attack! Untalkative Bunny	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	America's Funniest Home Video	According To Jim	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax	The Survivors Club (2:45PM)			Berserker: Hell's Warrior (4:15PM)			Dirty Deeds (5:45PM)				Avenging Angelo (7:20PM)			Tempo			The Wisher (10:20PM)		Simone (11.45PM)
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Wife Swap		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Who's The Boss	Bewitched			Wife Swap		Shadow Lake			Just Cause (10:35PM)		Wire In The Blood (11:25PM)
Discovery Channel		American Chopper		Mummy Autopsy		Wild Science		Ultimate Discovery		Unsolved History				Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Civilisations	
Sports Plus				Italia Serie A Highlights 16		French Open '05 Day 1 1st Rd													

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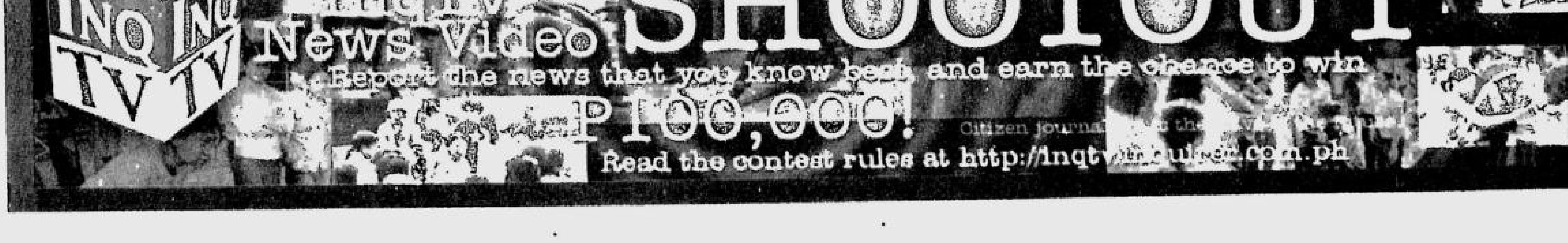
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GALLERIA
632-9115/16

- 1 STAR WARS Episode III • THX
  11:10 2:00 4:50 7:40 10:30
- 2 STAR WARS Episode III
  10:40 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
- 3 STAR WARS Episode III
  12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00
- 4 GUESS WHO
  12:40 3:00 5.20 7:40 10:00
- 5 BIKINI OPEN
  12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
- 6 STAR WARS Episode III
  1:00 3:50 6.40 9:30
- 7 IN GOOD COMPANY
  12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
- 8 AMITYVILLE HORROR
  12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
- 9 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
  12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
- 10 XXX 2
  12:30 3:00 5:30 7:50 10:00

ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

- 1 STAR WARS Episode III
  11:05 1:50 4:35 7:20 10:05
- 2 IN GOOD COMPANY
  10:30 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:50
- 3 AMITYVILLE HORROR
  11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
- 4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
  10:30 1:20 4.10 7:00 9:50
- 5 STAR WARS Episode III
  11:55 2:40 5:25 8:10
- 6 BIKINI OPEN
  10:30 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50
- 7 STAR WARS Episode III
  10:20 1:05 3:50 6:35 9:20

METRO EAST
682-8193 • 682-8199

- 1 IN GOOD COMPANY
  11:30 1:50 4:10 6:30 9:00
- 2 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
  11:20 1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00
- 3 STAR WARS Episode III
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- 4 BIKINI OPEN
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- 5 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
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NOVALICHES
935-3229/31

- 1 STAR WARS Episode III
  11:20 2:20 5:20 · 8:25
- 2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
  11:20 2:20 5:20 8:25
- 3 BIKINI OPEN
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- 4 AMITYVILLE HORROR
  12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30 8:30
- 5 STAR WARS Episode III
  10:50 1:50 4:50 7:50
- 6 RESERVE
- 7 IN GOOD COMPANY
  11:30 1:40 3:50 6:10 8:30
- 8 RESERVE

PIONEER
687-5378

- 1 STAR WARS Episode III
- 2 STAR WARS Episode III
- 3 BIKINI OPEN
- 4 AMITYVILLE HORROR

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

- 1 SAMARA RING 2
- 2 STAR WARS Episode III
- 3 STAR WARS Episode III
- 4 TAGOS SA LAMAN

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- 4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
- 5 BIKINI OPEN
- 6 IN GOOD COMPANY

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- 5 THE WEDDING DATE
- 6 THE INTERPRETER

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	4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN	5 AMITYVILLE HORROR	6 STAR WARS EP. 3	7 STAR WARS EP. 3
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 STAR WARS EP. 3 12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 8:15	2 STAR WARS EP. 3 10:50, 1:15, 4:05, 6:55,9:00		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX STAR WARS EP. 3 12:40, 3:30, 6:20, 9:10 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX STAR WARS EP. 3 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 STAR WARS EP. 3 12:15, 3:05, 5:55, 8:45, 11:35 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 STAR WARS EP. 3 11:50, 2:40, 5:30, 8:20, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 STAR WARS EP. 3 11:20, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40 GUARANTEED SEATS	
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Afleet Alex rises, rules Preakness

BALTIMORE—Jeremy Rose never figured the Preakness would be about survival.

Riding Afleet Alex, Rose pulled out of a nearly calamitous collision and guided the Preakness favorite to a memorable victory Saturday at Pimlico Race Course.

Afleet Alex had passed much of the field when he was bumped by frontrunner Scrappy T at the top of the stretch. Rose's horse dropped to his knees, drawing a gasp from the crowd, before bouncing up in an instant to resume his run to the wire.

"I was scared. I had enough time to think about hitting the ground, but he came back up underneath me," Rose said.

The remarkable horse finished 4¾ lengths ahead of runner-up Scrappy T.

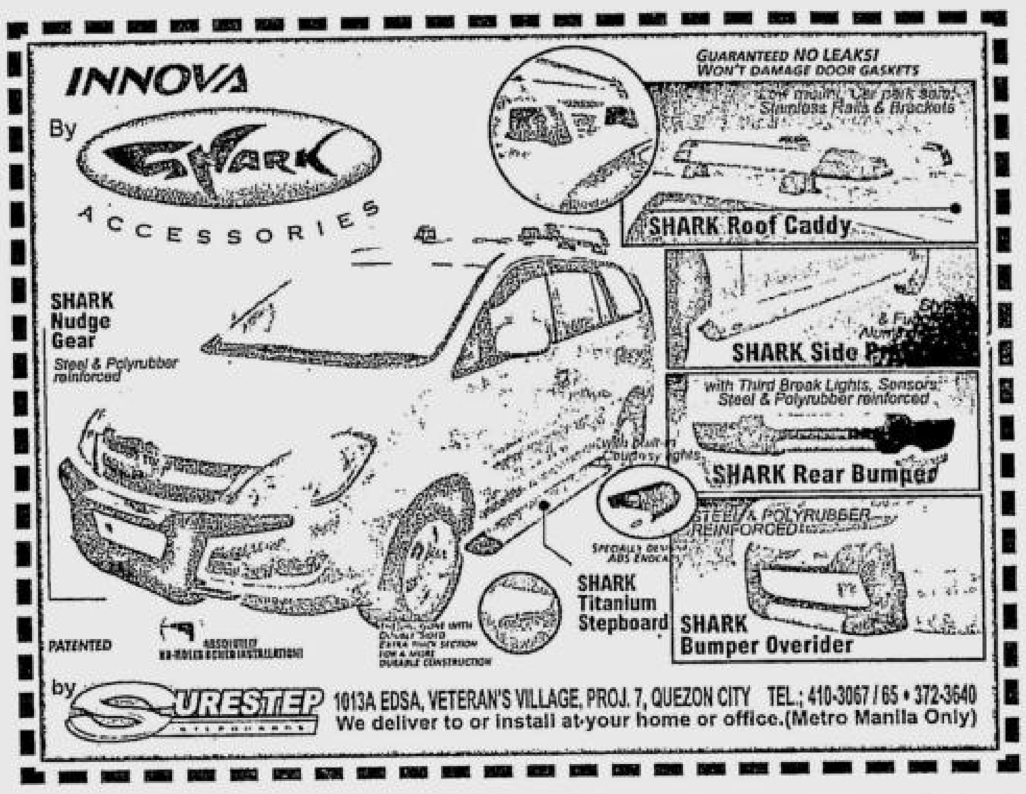
"He picked himself right up, and after that I knew he had it won," Rose said. "He's an amazing horse. I've never seen a horse stumble like that and then win a race like this."

Trainer Tim Ritchey celebrated his 54th birthday by winning his first US Triple Crown race during a career spanning three decades. The appreciative trainer attributed the victory to a unique bond between jockey and horse.

"Jeremy has absolute, complete confidence in this horse. He thinks his horse is from the planet Krypton.

"Over 30 years, I've seen some horses take some bad steps in races and still win," Ritchey said. *AP*

AFLEET Alex races to the finish line. REUTERS



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AFTER storming out of the box, Speed Advantage, guided by jockey Fernando Raquel, zooms toward the finish unchallenged in the Eduardo Cojuangco Cup, the first leg of the Triple Crown series. JESS YUSON

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Speed Advantage claims first leg of Triple Crown

By Edwin Villanueva
Contributor

SPEED Advantage got all the needed breaks to beat back Real Spicy's challenge down the stretch and capture the Cojuangco Cup, the opening leg of the 2005 Triple Crown Series, yesterday at the Santa Ana Park.

The bay colt stormed out from the first box sharply, put the rail to good use and dictated a searing pace that wore down the field, including the hard-luck Real Spicy.

"*Walang gustong mauna kaya ibinandera ko na agad. Kundisyon na kundisyon siya* (It seems that nobody wanted to take the early lead so I sent him there right away. He's in tip-top shape)," said Fernando Raquel of the 3-year-old son of Royal Premiere out of Trudy Capote.

The huge crowd had hoped for another thrilling stretch battle between Speed Advantage and Real Spicy but they were frustrated as the latter missed the jump, causing him precious ground.

Ace jockey Pat Dilema managed to bring Real Spicy from sixth and last place to second but Raquel and his mount had the 1,600-meter race in complete control.

"*Di bale baka sakali sa* second leg *tayo palarin* (It's okay, hopefully we'll be lucky in the second leg)," said Dilema, referring to the Ongpin Cup tentatively set for June 26.

Speed Advantage's two-length victory returned P1 million for the Yutadco Stable. It also earned him the reputation as the horse to beat in this year's series as he raised his head-to-head edge over Real Spicy to 3-1.

"The winner ran a very good race. I'd like to congratulate his connections," said Hermie Esguerra, whose prized entry Real Spicy settled for P376,750.

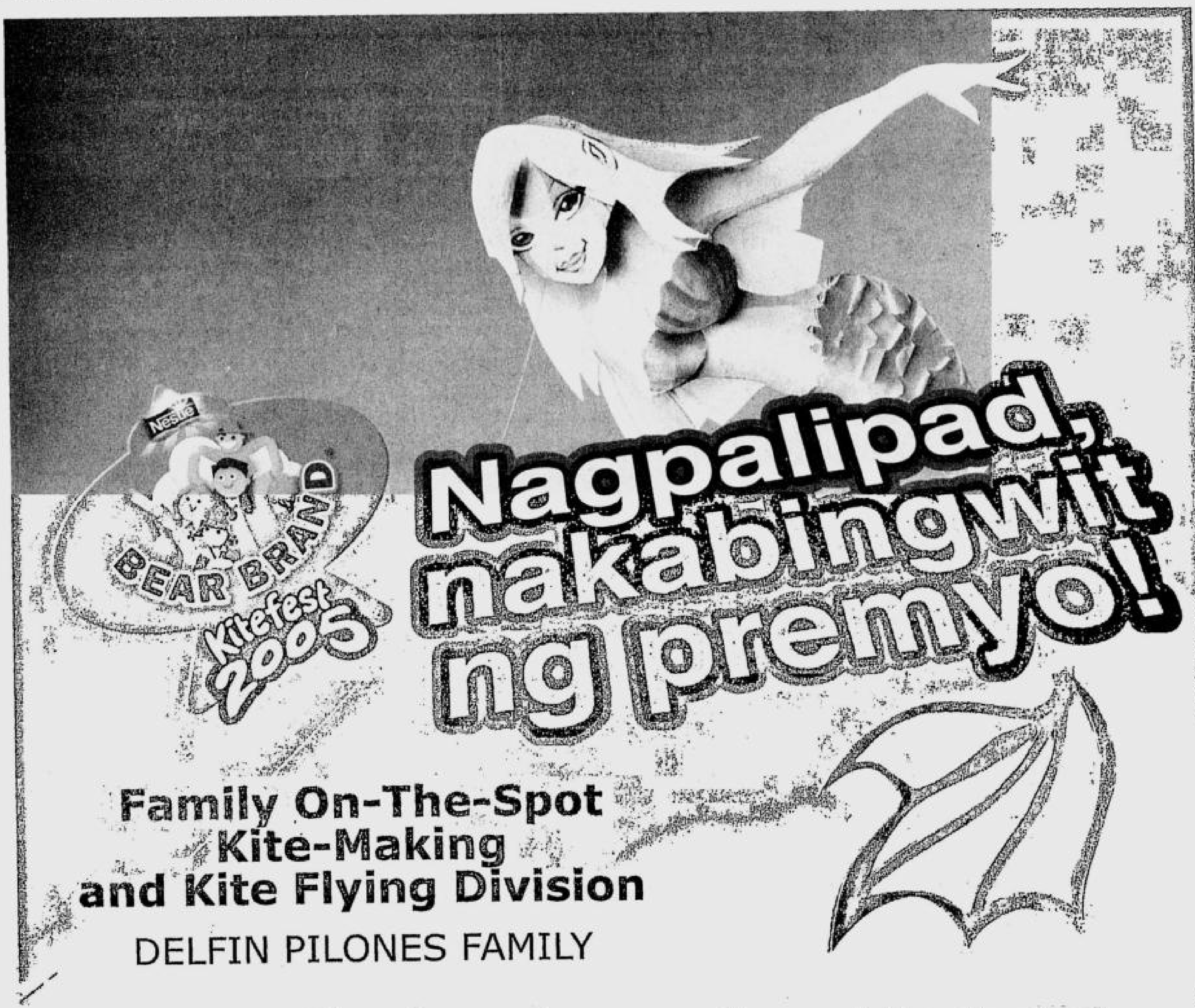
In Command finished third, five lengths off Speed Advantage, then came Tiger Song, War Alert and Speed Majesty.

The Jose "Bojie" Fernandez-trained Speed Advantage, sent away as the slight favorite, covered the race in 1:40 flat, submitting fast clips of 24.5-24.5-23.5-27.5.

Everyone was expecting Speed Majesty to seize early control but Speed Advantage showed up with the faster legs even as Tiger Song tried to press the stablemates early on.

Real Spicy heated up from the mid-backstretch and began passing tiring foes but the laborious rally exacted a heavy toll on him and Speed Advantage coasted under the wire unopposed.

As dusk settled, first favorite Thywillbedone edged another Esguerra entry, Ocean Deep, in the Hopeful Stakes.



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2nd Hardy Baluyot
3rd Sarlyn Estrada

Flat Kite Category
High School Division
1st Michael Gomez
2nd Chritopher Pilones
3rd Joemar Ramos

Flat Kite Category
College Division
1st Wesley R. Siapno
2nd Garu Cano
3rd Renz David

Flat Kite Category
Adult Division
1st Jing Torno
2nd Net Dimaano
3rd Jovellan Terrado

Geometric Kite Category
College Division
1st John Torres
2nd Ronnie Bumanlag
3rd Eric Basit

Geometric Kite Category
Adult Division
1st Jimmy Bentol
2nd Elias Arzadon Jr.
3rd Edgar Cano

Figure Kite Category
College Division
1st Henry George Cajulao
2nd Rommel Palamara
3rd Jeffrey G. Dotarot

Figure Kite Category
Adult Division
1st Francis Mallari
2nd Angelito Martin
3rd Michael L. Pastor

Bauya flies to Thailand for title fight

PHILIPPINE bantam champion Joel Bauya guns for the Pan-Asian Boxing Association 118-lb title against reigning champ and WBA top contender Poonsawat Kratingdaenggym tomorrow in Bangkok, Thailand.

Bauya, who left with his manager Emil Romano last Friday, expressed confidence in wresting the crown away from the undefeated Thai following a failed attempt to win the WBC International crown last year.

Poonsawat holds a 21-0, 15 KOs ledger and is being groomed to challenge WBA champ Wladimir Sidorenko late this year.

The southpaw Bauya holds a 15-6-3 win-loss-draw record with 8 KOs. *Salven Lagumbay, contributor*

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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Critics pan film but praise Pinoy actor

By Ruben V. Nepales
Los Angeles Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—While most film critics panned "Dominion: Prequel to the Exorcist," some praised the performance of Billy Crawford, who is cast in the movie, director Paul Schrader's alternative version to last year's "Exorcist: The Beginning."

Bob Strauss, film critic of Los Angeles' Daily News, wrote: "'Dominion' features a character not in 'Beginning': Cheche, a handicapped local outcast played quite well by the pop singer Billy Crawford. He becomes the main vessel for the devil, and rather than deteriorate, Cheche just grows stronger and more beautiful, calling into question the true nature of Satan's influence."

The New York Times' Stephen Holden singled out Crawford's character in the film's setting, a tribal village in British East Africa (present-day Kenya). Holden declared, "... The most compelling local is Cheche (the pop star Billy Crawford), a severely crippled teenager and cowering pariah, who, tended by Rachel (Clara Bellar), is miraculously healed, only to find his body becoming a furious battleground between good and evil. Mr. Schrader bets all his philosophic chips on this ambiguous, fascinating figure."

Ebert gushes

First reported as a DVD release only, "Dominion" opened Friday in the United States. Morgan Creek originally shelved Schrader's version and brought in Renny Harlin to re-shoot the movie, resulting in "Exorcist: The Beginning" which was released last year.

"Dominion," showing in about 100 screens, is predictably dwarfed by "Star Wars: Episode III, Revenge of the Sith," which is playing in thousands of multiplexes around the world.

Movie reviewers drubbed Harlin's version. Schrader's "Dominion" suffered the same fate Friday when the movie's reviews came out.

Among the exceptions was a positive review by TV host and Chicago Sun Times film critic Roger Ebert who gushed: "Instead of cheap thrills, Schrader gives us a frightening version of a good priest (Stellan Skarsgard) who fears goodness may not be enough... Schrader... was the right director, and this is a film that works. Those who have seen the earlier version may find the two films instructive as an illustration of the gulf between a personal vision (Schrader's) and a multiplex product (Harlin's)."

LA Weekly's Scott Foundas also came to the movie's defense: "The strengths of 'Dominion'... have been little diminished by its long shelf life and, in fact, may have grown stronger with age—seeing as how the film now arrives in the wake of the repulsive,

CRITICS/ A2-2

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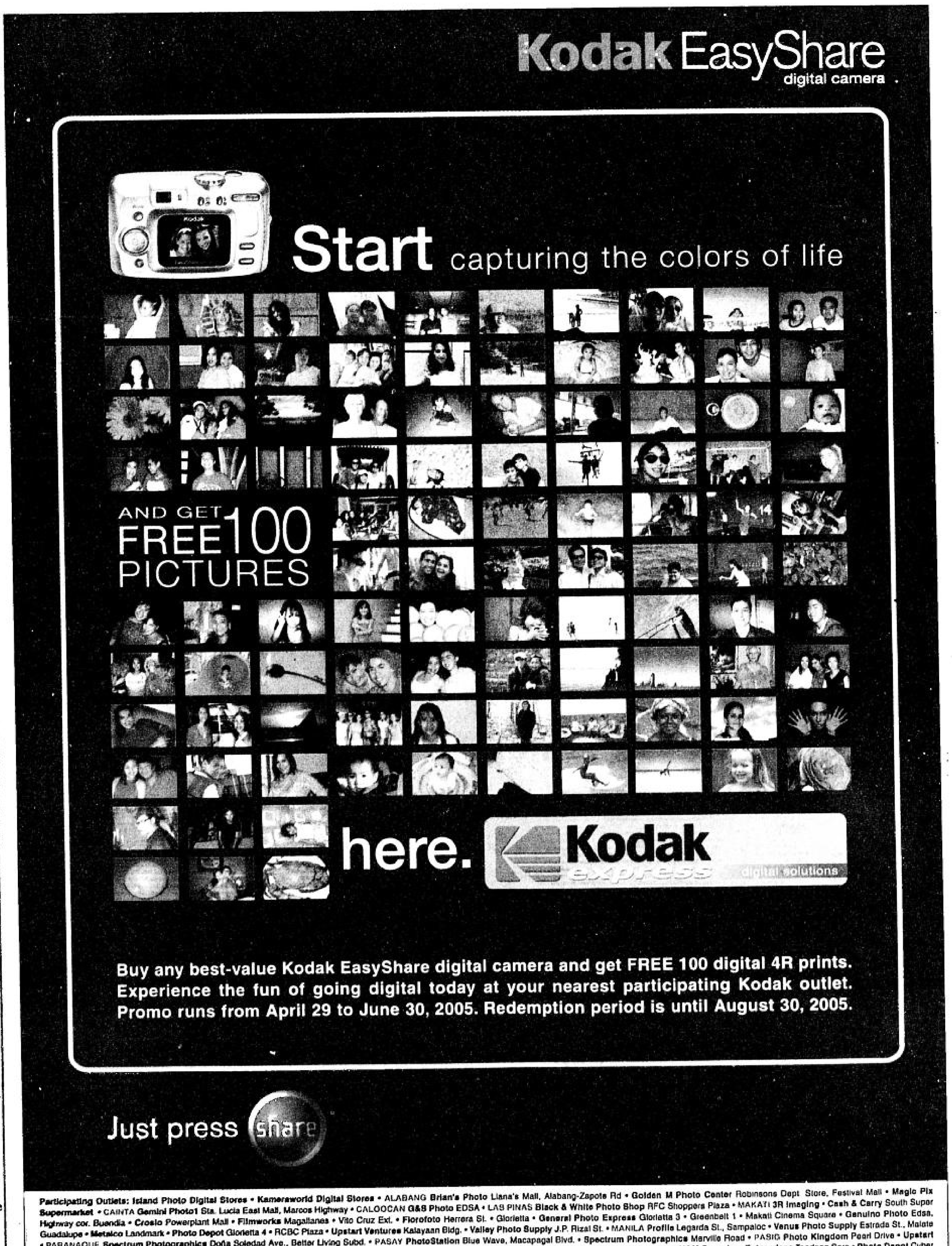
BABES, BEAUS IN BORA INQUIRER photo chief Ernie U. Sarmiento spotted four hot couples cavorting in the unofficial summer capital, Boracay. From top: Supermodels Borgy Manotoc and Ornusa Cadness were paparazzi favorites, understandably. Italian-Canadian Nancy Castiglione and her new beau, political scion Bullet Jalosjos, were mostly in the blue-green waters. Cooling off? The scorching snapshots say otherwise. Original sh-boom gal Rachel Lobangco frolicked on the beach with an unidentified male pal. Vandolph and Jenny Salimao seemed to have forgotten the infamous swimming-pool spat on the set of Ricky Reyes' show in Golden Sunset Resort in Calatagan, Batangas. Just stay away from the water, Jenny.



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VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MANY years ago, when the world was young, we watched the film, "Mga Anghel na Walang Langit," and were impressed with its touching story about child vendors and vagrants trying to survive in the main streets of the hostile city.

We were even more surprised when we learned that the film was directed by action star-producer **Fernando Poe Jr.**, under his directorial name, Ronwaldo Reyes.

FPJ's handling of the movie impressed us because it was sensitive as well a We wrote a positive review of the f FPJ contacted us to express his a tion.

Around that time, he also came another empathetic action-drama, " Hari," which we again lauded, furth ing Ronnie's appreciation.

Due to the mutual goodwill thus ed, FPJ was able to overcome his "I reticence when it came to media int and one fine day (and ni agreed to be interviewed by "moveable feast" of three locations in the course o hours!

Flash forward more tha decades, and "Mga Ang Walang Langit" is being used the title of a production—t ABS-CBN's latest TV dram which started telecasting ea month. Due in part to our F nection," we made it a point a couple of the new sho episodes.

On the positive side, we cast of child actors, especiall riety of character types the fied. In tearjerker shows like temptation is to turn all of dren into weepy types. But t duction also includes some no-nonsense kids, and that' come deviation from the d norm.

We also appreciate the ser ety in terms of situations— gutsy boy from the provin ends up in a syndicate, to singer suddenly wrenche from her blind mother.

Finally, some of the show adult actors, led by **Johnny D** add greatly to the productio pic texture, and that's all to t

On the *other* hand, some character touches, like the sassily bosses her mother come off awkwardly. And son dialogue written for the sho talents is too mature, eloqu "knowing" for them. Let's ke al, please—yes, even in thr kerchief dramas like this.

It's early days for the sho looks like the production's have their work cut out for keep its stories fresh and topi

All told, though, we're gl "Mga Anghel na Walang Lan reached our TV screens, be presents viewers with a wel

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STAR WARS - EPISODE III
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11:50 / 2:50 / 5:50 / 8:50
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❸ KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
11:30 / 2:30 / 5:30 / 8:30
❹ XXX 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
1:00 / 3:20 / 5:40 / 8:00
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GATEWAY MALL — ***Cool Jazz Cool Classics featuring performances by Cadio, Lynn Sherman and Affinity with Cooky Chua** on May 20, 21 and 22 at the Gateway Pavilion.*

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BILLY Crawford is listed as p

Critics p

From page A2-1

Harlin-directed bloodbath business (and reviews late last summer. As I said (made from a quite simila templation of the getting that views demonic possess rence than as a contagion carried across time and spa ties in its wake."

Thumbs down

Most reviewers, howeve down. Los Angeles Times be exciting to report that cued from beyond obscurity humility. Unfortunately, that version is only marginally rectors' prior work could not fall into the category of inst

The New York Post's Kyle sion at least had cheap thrill

Michael Rechtshaffen, porter, groused: "While the V ry line and character-motiv Schrader variation is awful the sort of things that tive—like mounting suspe ness and oh, yeah, the eleme

Despite "Dominion's Crawford should gain some career since several pu him and most reviews, listed him as part of the main

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ome alternative to the many fantasy and romance *teleseryes* on the tube these days.

The show's more real and believable situations and characters make for more empathetic viewing, and we can use a lot of that during these unfocused, escapist times.

'Tusks and Tattoos'

SALVATION and friendship come in many different forms, but few are as strange and beautiful as that of Timbo the African bull elephant and Chris Gallucci, the "Elephant Man." Today at 10 p.m., "Tusks and Tattoos" on the Animal Planet features the story of these two rebels who seem to have needed each other more than anything or anyone else.

A former prisoner, Chris met Timbo in Shambala, at the Mojave Desert. Notorious for being a troublemaker, Timbo was removed from two zoos before he ended up at Shambala. It was there that the two hell-raisers "tamed" each other, and their unlikely friendship has lasted for 28 years.

'Madagascar'

TOUTED as one of the biggest animated productions of 2005, "Madagascar" is about four pampered zoo animals. Alex the Lion (voiced by **Ben Stiller**) is the main attraction at New York's Central Park Zoo. His friends are Marty the Zebra (**Chris Rock**), Melman the Giraffe (**David Schwimmer**), and Gloria the Hippo (**Jada Pinkett Smith**).

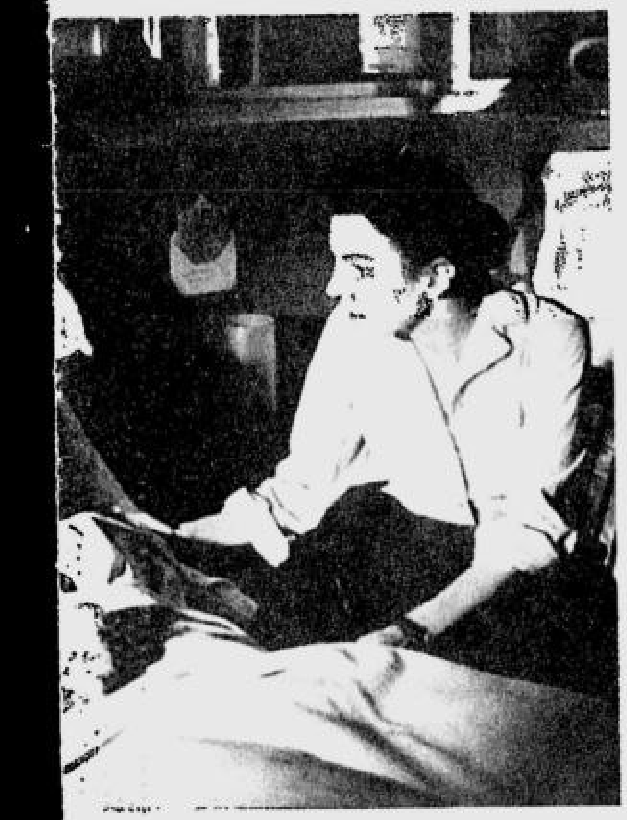
With the help of some penguins, Marty escapes the zoo, and his friends have to go after him. But they are captured, crated and put on a ship to Africa by well-meaning people who thinks the animals should be freed from the stress of life in New York!

The plotting penguins sabotage the ship, and the zoo animals find themselves washed ashore on the exotic island of Madagascar. Now, they have to figure out how to survive in the *real* jungle!

Cultural summit

TODAY and tomorrow, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts is holding a cultural summit on the power of arts and media in breaking the cycle of corruption and poverty, at Clamshell 2, Intramuros and the Manila Pavilion, UN Avenue, Manila. For details, call 5275529.

Day 1 focuses on values education in schools and communities, using radio, TV, cinema, print, comics and information technology. Day 2 forges partnerships with media executives, producers, publishers, advertisers, and business, civic and church groups, underscoring a culture of honesty, integrity and transparency.



art of the main cast. ROTTENTOMATOES

an film but . . .

at played to disappointing
r than anything onscreen)
the time, Schrader's version
cript) is both a pensive con-
losing of faith, and a movie
on less as a singular occur-
rn in the hearts of men and
, infecting entire communi-

gave the movie a thumbs
vin Crust opined: "It would
minion' is a hidden gem res-
by a rare act of Hollywood
s not the case, as Schrader's
tter; and though the two di-
e more different, both films
tly forgettable."
Smith sniped, "Harlin's ver-
—Schrader's has none."
ting for The Hollywood Re-
illiam Wisher and Caleb sto-
ions are easier to follow, the
dull, with scant evidence of
ke horror movies attrac-
e and spine-tingling creepi-
t of horror."
erally unfavorable reviews,
oost in his Hollywood acting
ons used stills that featured
ling those that praised him,
cast.

ABS-CBN's 'Mga Anghel na Walang Langit' is a welcome respite from fantasy and romance fare on TV these days

SHANG CINEPLEX

① STAR WARS III
MTRCB. GP
12:15, 3:20, 6:25, 9:30

② STAR WARS III
MTRCB: GP
1:15, 4:20, 7:25, 10:30

③ KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
MTRCB: PG-13
12:20, 3:30, 6:40, 9:50

④ STAR WARS III
MTRCB: GP
10:40, 1:45, 4:50, 7:55

PREMIERE THEATRE STAR WARS III
MTRCB: GP 11:45, 2:50, 5:55, 9:00

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-183, Series of 2005

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687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
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1 STAR WARS III: REVENGE OF THE SITH
12:35, 3:35, 6:35, 9:35
GP

2 STAR WARS III: REVENGE OF THE SITH
11:05, 2:05, 5:05, 8:05, 11:05
GP

3 STAR WARS III: REVENGE OF THE SITH
10:20, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20
GP

4 STAR WARS III: REVENGE OF THE SITH
11:50, 2:50, 5:50, 8:50
GP

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

STAR WARS: EPISODE III GP 12:55,3:50,6:45,9:40	AMITYVILLE HORROR R13 1:00,3.00	STAR WARS: EPISODE III GP 11:45,2:40,5:35,8:30
STAR WARS: EPISODE III GP 1:30,4:25,7:20,10:15	STAR WARS: EPISODE III GP 12:20,3:15,6:10,9:05	STAR WARS: EPISODE III GP 11:10,2:05,5:00,7:55

star group of cinemas movie guide
IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA-SHAW
Tel. No. 726.61.50
3 Bikini Open
4 Star Wars Episode 3
5 Star Wars Episode 3
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DTI-NCR A2-258, Series 2005
DTI-NCR A3-361, Series 2005

METROPOLIS ALABANG star
Tel. No. 850.42.85
1 Amityville
2 Bikini Open
3 Under Renovation
4 Under Renovation
5 Star Wars Episode 3
6 Kingdom of Heaven

starmall LAS PIÑAS
Tel. No. 873.50.04
1 Sahara
2 Rental Reservation
May The Force Be With You Star Wars Episode 3
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Starmall Edsa 4 & 5
Metropolis Alabang 5

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CINEMA 1 STAR WARS: EPISODE III - GP
10:30, 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30

CINEMA 2 STAR WARS: EPISODE III - GP
11:50, 2:35, 5:20, 8:05, 10:50

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
PG 13

CINEMA 4 STAR WARS: EPISODE III - GP
12:20, 3:05, 5:50, 8:35, 11:20

CINEMA 5 STAR WARS: EPISODE III - GP
11:10, 1:55, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL: 722 4496.

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GUARANTEED SEATS

the podium cinema
1. STAR WARS III
11:00 FS / 11:30 MF / 2:10 / 4:50 / 7:30
9:40 LFS / 10:10 LMF / 12:20 END
2. STAR WARS III
11:40 FS / 12:10 MF / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10
10:20 LFS / 11:00 LMF / 1:10 END
☎ 633-6978

sm megamall cinema 1
STAR WARS: EPISODE III
12:00 FS / 12:09 MF / 3:20 / 6:10
8:30 LFS / 9:00 LMF / 11:20 END
☎ 633-1801

sm manila cinema 6
STAR WARS: EPISODE III
10:10 FS / 10:25 MF / 1:10 / 3:55 / 6:40
3:05 LFS / 3:25 LMF / 12:05 END
☎ 523-9240

sm cebu cinema
CINEMA 1: STAR WARS: EPISODE III
12:55 FS / 1:09 MF / 3:46 / 6:23
8:43 LFS / 9:00 LMF / 11:20 END
CINEMA 3: STAR WARS: EPISODE III
10:30 FS / 11:00 MF / 1:39 / 4:16 / 6:53
9:13 LFS / 9:30 LMF / 11:50 END
☎ (032) 231-3876

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 AMITYVILLE HORROR
3 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
4 STAR WARS: EPISODE III
5 CAN THIS BE LOVE
6 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
7 RESERVED
8 RESERVED
9 RESERVED
10 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
11 TRUMPETS
12 BIKINI OPEN

sm city fairview
1 STAR WARS: EPISODE III
2 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
3 ARE WE THERE YET?
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
5 BIKINI OPEN
6 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
7 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
8 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
9 CAN THIS BE LOVE
10 THE PACIFIER
11 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
12 IN GOOD COMPANY

sm city north edsa
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 RESERVED
4 xXx 2 : THE NEXT LEVEL
5 BIKINI OPEN
6 AMITYVILLE HORROR
7 STAR WARS: EPISODE III
8 STAR WARS : EPISODE III

sm city sta. mesa
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 BIKINI OPEN
3 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED
6 CAN THIS BE LOVE
7 AMTIVYLLE HORROR
8 IN GOOD COMPANY
9 STAR WARS: EPISODE III
10 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

sm city southmall
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
4 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
5 xXx 2 : THE NEXT LEVEL
6 CAN THIS BE LOVE
7 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
8 BIKINI OPEN
9 AMITYVILLE HORROR
10 KINDOM OF HEAVEN

sm city manila
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 AMITYVILLE HORROR
3 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
4 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
5 POOH HEFFALUMP MOVIE
6 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
7 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
8 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
9 CAN THIS BE LOVE
10 THE WEDDING DATE
11 IN GOOD COMPANY
12 BIKINI OPEN

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat
1 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
2 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
3 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
4 BIKINI OPEN

sm city bicutan
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 BIKINI OPEN
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 STAR WARS : EPISODE III

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 STAR WARS ; EPISODE III
3 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
4 CAN THIS BE LOVE
5 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
6 BIKINI OPEN

sm city baguio
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 BOOGEYMAN
3 BIKINI OPEN
4 STAR WARS: EPISODE III

sm city batangas
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 BIKINI OPEN
3 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
4 BOOGEYMAN

sm city marilao
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 BIKINI OPEN
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 STAR WARS : EPISODE III

sm city bacoor
1 ANG LAGUSAN
2 AMITYVILLE HORROR
3 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
5 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
6 BIKINI OPEN
7 CAN THIS BE LOVE
8 IN GOOD COMPANY

sm city dasmariñas
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 BIKINI OPEN
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 STAR WARS : EPISODE III

sm city lucena
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE
2 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
3 BIKINI OPEN
4 ALONE IN THE DARK

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

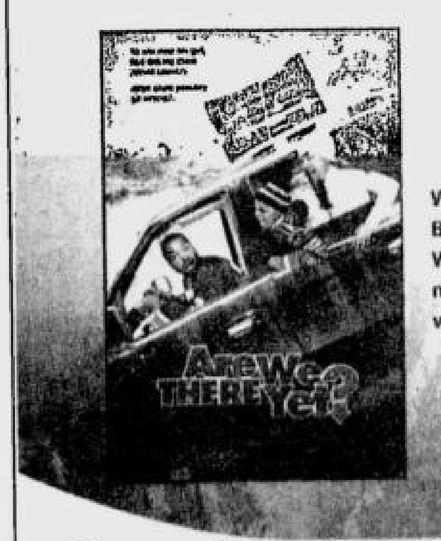
sm city cebu
1 STAR WARS : EPISODEIII
2 RESERVED
3 STAR WARS : EPISODEIII
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
5 SIX
6 HONEY
7 BIKINI OPEN
8 STAR WARS : EPISODEIII

sm city iloilo
1 THE INTERPRETER
2 RESERVED
3 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
4 SAHARA
5 SIX
6 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
7 RESERVED
8 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

sm city davao
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
3 BIKINI OPEN
4 GUESS WHO
5 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
6 STAR WARS: EPISODE III

sm city cagayan de oro
1 STAR WARS : EPISODE III
2 BOOGEYMAN
3 SAHARA
4 STAR WARS : EPISODE III

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



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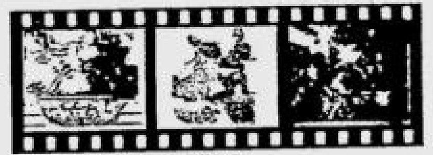
	TxTube	weekly	ON GMATV TXTUBE
	Idol Ko Si Kap	weekly	ON GMATV IDOL
	Bahay Mo Ba'To?	weekly	ON GMATV BAHAY
	Nuts Entertainment	weekly	ON GMATV NUTS
	Pinoy Pop Superstar	weekly	ON GMATV PINOYPOP
	Startalk	weekly	ON GMATV STALK
	S-Files	weekly	ON GMATV SFILES
	Wag Kukurap	weekly	ON GMATV WKURAP
	Daddy Di Do Du	weekly	ON GMATV DADDY
	Lagot Ka Isusumbong Kita	weekly	ON GMATV LAGOTKA

CATEGORY	
Entertainment: Text ON STARCLIP to 2346	
Entertainment Content	Gagamboy, Pido Dida, Stairway To Heaven, Sinungaling Mong Puso (varies weekly)
Anime: Text ON ANIMECLIP to 2346	
Anime Content	Voltes V, Daimos, Zoids (varies weekly)
Cartoons: Text ON TOONSVC to 2375	
Content	Happy Sun, Sleep Moon, Eat Fish (varies daily)
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Creature Content	Sharks, Seals, Lions, Elephants, Dolphins, Rhinos, Leopards, Crocodiles, Hippos (varies weekly)

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'No, I am not a battered wife'

Donna Cruz-Larrazabal says her husband Yong would never harm her 'in any way'

FOR the singer-actress, family is always top priority.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

By Marinel R. Cruz

THAT'S not true. Yong doesn't beat me up. I don't have friends or relatives in Cebu. If he harms me in any way, I'd go straight home [to Manila]," declared former singer-actress Donna Cruz, reacting to rumors that she is a battered wife.

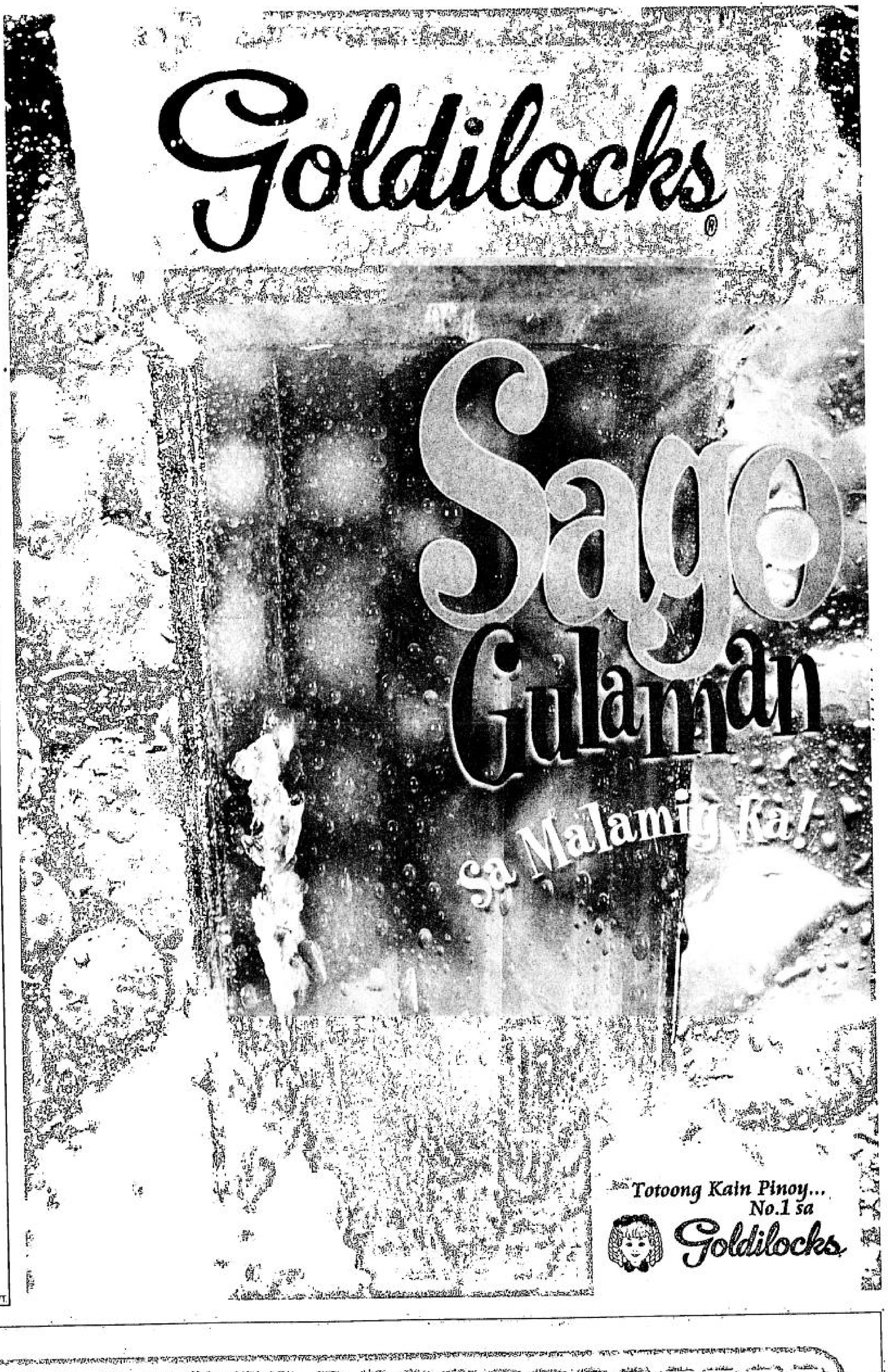
Donna married Cebu-based ophthalmologist Potenciano "Yong" Larrazabal III in 1999. The singer-actress has since relocated to Cebu and focused on taking care of their two kids—Isabella, 5, and Cian, 2.

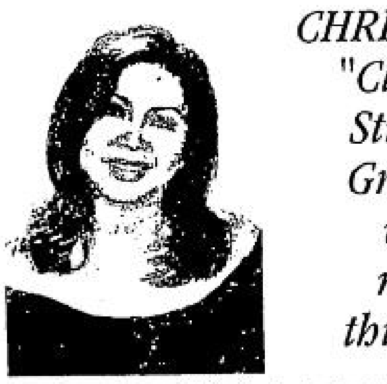
"I don't know where people get this idea. It probably came from Cebu," Donna told INQUIRER Entertainment. "There are other stories that we hear only there. [For example,] people say I gamble. I don't even know how to play mahjong."

In a separate interview, singer Geneva Cruz, Donna's cousin, also told the INQUIRER: "Yong would never hit Donna. He's an ophthalmologist; he really takes care of his hands. It's important that when he handles patients, he's not *pasmado* (shaky, sweaty hands)."

Gen added: "I know Yong personally. KC (Montero, MTV videojock and Gen's boyfriend) and I stay with the Larrazabals whenever we visit Cebu. Yong is a good person. If those rumors were true, I would personally tell Donna to leave him."

NO, I'M NOT/ A3-2





CHRISTINE RECIO- "Claire's super Strength Hair Grower works wonder to my falling, thinning hair"

Enterpreneur Christine Recio is now telling friends what Claire's new formula Perfect Skin Hair Grower did to her falling and thinning hair is nothing short of miracle.

"I used to have very thick, healthy hair," Christine recalls. "My problem started in 1987, when I first experience that my hair was falling by two hundred and more daily."

To Christine whose hair was then the envy of many, it was a traumatic experience to see her locks speedy diminishing. Just the taught of being a hairless lady scared her to the max.. "I cried everytime I shower seeing two hundred hairs on the drain".

In desperation, she had tried almost all the available hair grower tonic. But her hair problem simply become worse. She continued switching from one brand of hair grower to another.

"Until I finally decided to use one of the most popular and expensive tonic," Christine recounts. "It gave me false hopes for just a while. Hair fall, was minimize, but after a few days, more hair had been falling everytime I took a shower or just brushed my hair."

Christine's hair was already so thin when she read in the newspaper an item which featured Claire and her hair grower. She immediately went to a Skin Shop outlet and bought the set of Perfect Skin Hair Grower, Shampoo and Scalp Cleanser.

"I was lucky that Claire was in her store when I first went there," Christine beams. "She was so kind to give me advice and how to properly use her products."

Christine was again alarmed when she first apply the hair grower to her scalp. "There was still the usual hair fall. But Claire told me not to be afraid, since it was only normal and that results vary for every individual, she told me to just be patient. True enough, slowly the falling of my hair became less and less everyday until finally it stopped after a month of using it. I also noticed that after only a week of using it there were already new growths of small hair on my scalp ."Christine said with tears in her eyes.

Christine is so thankful to Claire for such encouraging results. Until now, more new hair are sprouting all over her head. Her hair falling problem is all gone.

"I like to share this experience to people who have the same problem that I had, " Christine volunteers. " It is really amazing how Perfect Skin Hair Grower, the new-super strength formula, has alleviate my longtime suffering."

(Perfect Skin Hair Grower products are available only at The Skin Shop Tel nos. 7244566, 6355041,7582431,7750648,8423306)

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'No, I am not a battered wife'

From page A3-1

After six years of living together, Donna said, she and Yong had gotten used to gossip, and usually just laughed them off. "There was this story, the day after we watched a musical, that I slept throughout the show," Donna recalled. "That was a good one. Actually, it was Yong who was sleepy."

Geneva added: "It's really sad. Whenever people see an almost-perfect marriage, they get jealous and try to destroy it. That happens to me and KC, too."

Donna said she had turned down several offers to do movies and TV soaps because she always put family before career.

She explained: "I never really turned my back on show business. But I realized that if I went back to the movies or TV, I'd have to stay in Manila for long periods. I can't take the kids away from their dad. *Kawawa naman si* Yong."

Setting limits

In any case, she has set limits this early. "TV appearances and commercials are fine. No sexy roles or kissing scenes. I've never done sexy films anyway, and I was never comfortable with kissing scenes."

Donna was last seen in Viva Films' "Isang Tanong, Isang Sagot" (1998) with Jason Everly. Her first kissing scene was with Ian de Leon in "Pangako ng Kahapon."

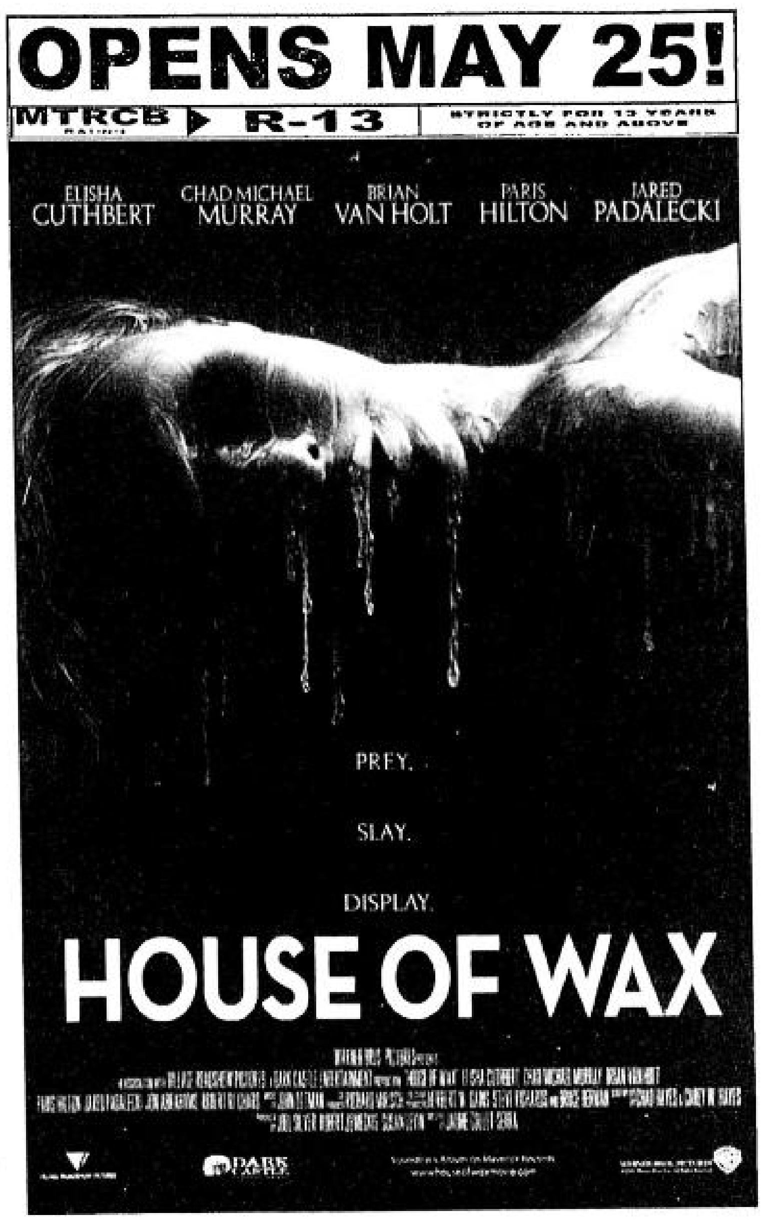
"I cried after shooting that scene—and it wasn't even a torrid kiss."

Mrs. Larrazabal and her kids were recently in Manila to shoot a commercial for Jollibee Food Corp. This is her fourth for the food chain.

"I was a Jollibee baby," Donna admitted. "I did my first Jollibee commercial when I was 17. I sang 'Tell the World.' The following year, Geneva, Vina (Morales), Donita Rose and I did the 'Apat na Sikat' commercial. When I turned 19, Vina, Donita and I did another commercial, with Aga (Muhlach)."

According to Donna, the theme of the new commercial is something close to her heart. "It's about a full-time mom whose priority is her family. The shoot was fun; it was like we were just playing. What's challenging was making the kids comfortable on the set. I had to keep making Cian laugh—not easy, especially when he's sleepy. It helped that the Jollibee mascot was there."

She herself was nervous at first, Donna added. "Cian is the shy type. When he sees lights and cameras, he hides. He's so unlike his sister, who [enjoys] posing."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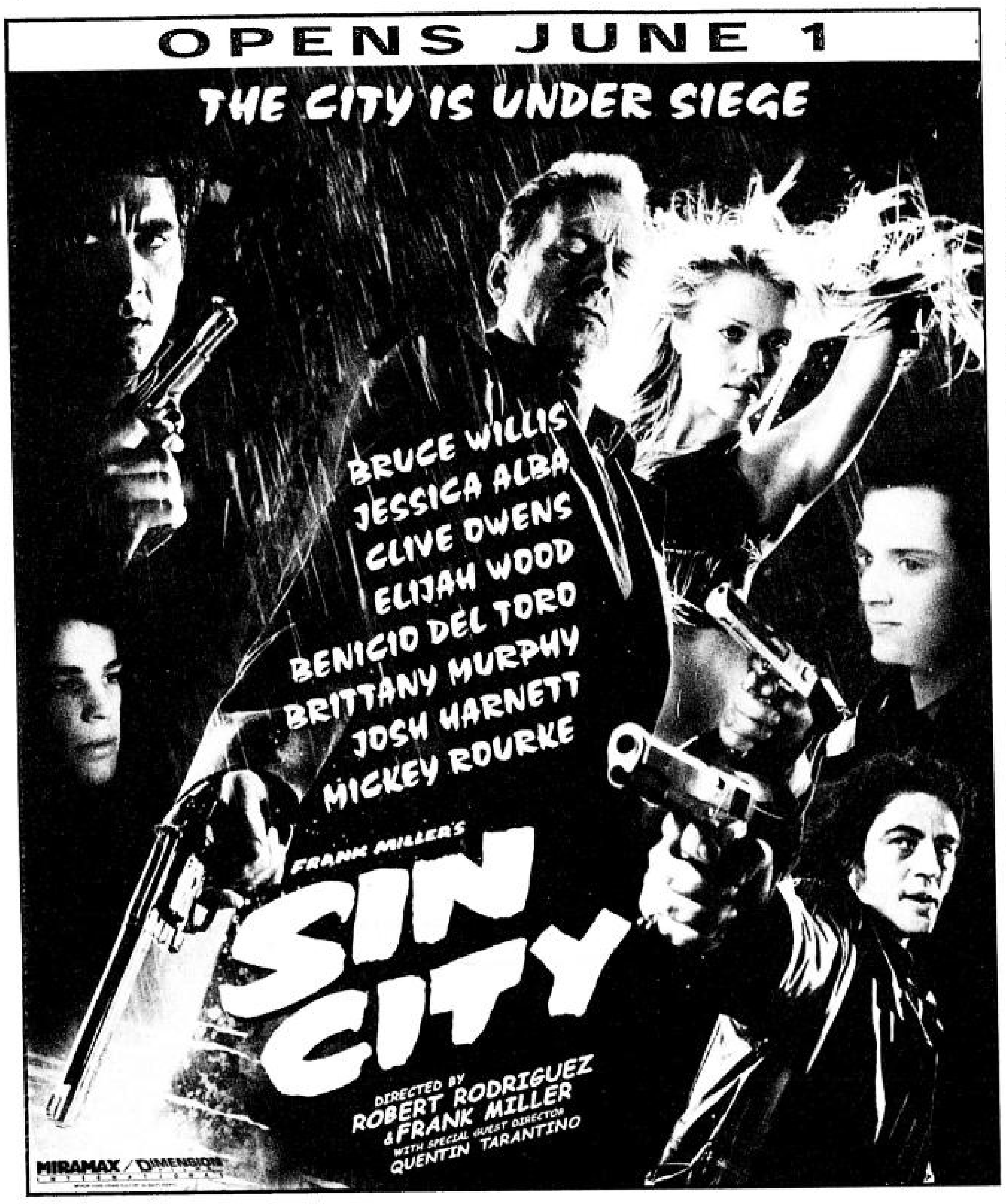
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JESSICA ALBA
CLIVE OWENS
ELIJAH WOOD
BENICIO DEL TORO
BRITTANY MURPHY
JOSH HARNETT
MICKEY ROURKE
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IAN McDIARMID SAMUEL L. JACKSON CHRISTOPHER LEE
JOHN WILLIAMS
RICK McCALLUM
GEORGE LUCAS

Cherrie Pie and the *chismis* factory

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IN HER new movie, Jeffrey Jeturian's "Bikini Open," award-winning actress Cherrie Pie Picache plays Susan Ferrer-Logarta, an enterprising broadcast journalist who often resorts to less-than-honest means to spice up her reports.

"She will do anything and everything for ratings," Cherrie Pie describes her screen character.

She has encountered the likes of Susan in the past. In fact, she recently found herself in the center of a controversy regarding the postponement of her wedding to Gary Tria, father of her 3-year-old son Jose Antonio, originally set last February.

Frightening

For the longest time, she has adamantly protected her privacy, turning down interview requests from both the broadcast and print media.

Although she's well aware of the newsmen's need for "scoops," she declined because it was an issue that she felt strongly about.

In fact, that was the reason she "fell in love" with the role of Susan Ferrer-Logarta.

"I'm sure a lot of people will get provoked," she points out. "*Maraming matatamaan*. It's about media responsibility and exploitation. I hope this makes people realize what's happening now. Scandals are aired on TV... it's really frightening and frustrating."

She commends the Professional Artist Managers Inc. (Pami) for its advocacy against "unethical treatment" of actors on TV talk shows. "I've been following the INQUIRER's series on the Pami campaign," she says. "It's reassuring to know that Pami is doing its best to protect artists."

Earlier, Cherrie Pie was cornered by the staff of "The Buzz" during the birthday party of good friend and "Pasiyam" co-star Roderick Paulate.

"At first, they just asked me to express my birthday wish for Roderick," she recounts. "Before I knew it, they were asking why my wedding didn't push through. I even cracked a joke, '*Uy, sine*-segue-*an mo ako*!' But of course that was edited."

To her credit, Cherrie Pie managed to steer clear of the fire.

Award-winning actress tries to make sense of gossip

"I simply answered their questions," she relates. "I had nothing to hide... I just didn't feel I had to explain to anyone. It was a mutual decision on our part not to hold the wedding last February. But we're still together [as a couple]."

Direct effect

She insists that artists should be more "responsible"—more discreet, more discriminating. "I'm planning to rally all actors," she says. "It's high time we did something about [gossip], because we are the ones directly affected."

This is why she supports filmmaker Joey Reyes' signature campaign against scandal TV, she says. She feels disheartened because "the public looks down on all actors." "Every time something happens in an actor's life and it lands in the news, it is automatically dismissed as a gimmick. It's sad."

Don't get her wrong. She firmly believes that if celebrities want to be respected, they should act respectable in the first place.

"It's just that we should set limits," she insists. "If they don't want to be used, they should be firm; then no one would even dare."

ROBIN Padilla

'La Visa' fresh and feel-good

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

"La Visa Loca"
Written and directed by Mark Meily
Starring Robin Padilla, Johnny Delgado and Rufa Mae Quinto

REVIEW

FINALLY, a Robin Padilla flick where the actor doesn't resort to annoying *kanto*-boy swagger.

If you never felt a connection to any of the characters he has previously portrayed, you just might find this one familiar, even endearing. In this surprisingly fresh and feel-good film, Padilla as the lovable loser Jess fits the Everyman image he likes to project.

"La Visa Loca," Mark Meily's follow-up to the lauded "Crying Ladies," allows the actor to be funny and easy to identify with. Anyone who's ever dreamed of greener pastures abroad will relate to Jess, the limo driver who hopes to work in the United States but fails to secure a visa.

Meily is able to expound on his chief protagonist's sphere by capitalizing on chewy dialogue and a creative meshing of realities. For example, a small group of *pasyon* singers—Tessie Tomas, Noel Trinidad, Marissa Sanchez, Isay Alvarez and Robert Seña—tells of Jess' troubles in the background, but sometimes interacts with him. The theatrical, Luhrmann-esque approach is okay even if, conversely, the simplistic lyrics perennially state the obvious.

Joining the mix is Rufa Mae Quinto as Mara, a young mother who works as a "mermaid" at the town fair, to her shy son's chagrin. And by the way, Jess could be the boy's father.

Quinto gives the role just the right amount of babe appeal and subtler-than-usual wackiness.

"La Visa Loca" also integrates a mini-travelogue that spotlights local customs. Holy Week flagellants, fraudulent faith healers and an *agimat*-sporting *ermitanio* (played effectively by Joonie Gamboa) add identity to the rural townscapes that Jess traverses as part of his job, and give the movie many memorable visuals.

Meily's irreverent look at culture echoes would-be OFW's daily drama, and it is brought to vivid life by noteworthy performances. Despite some over-the-top scenes and disconnecting punchlines, "La Visa Loca" is still very much worth seeing.

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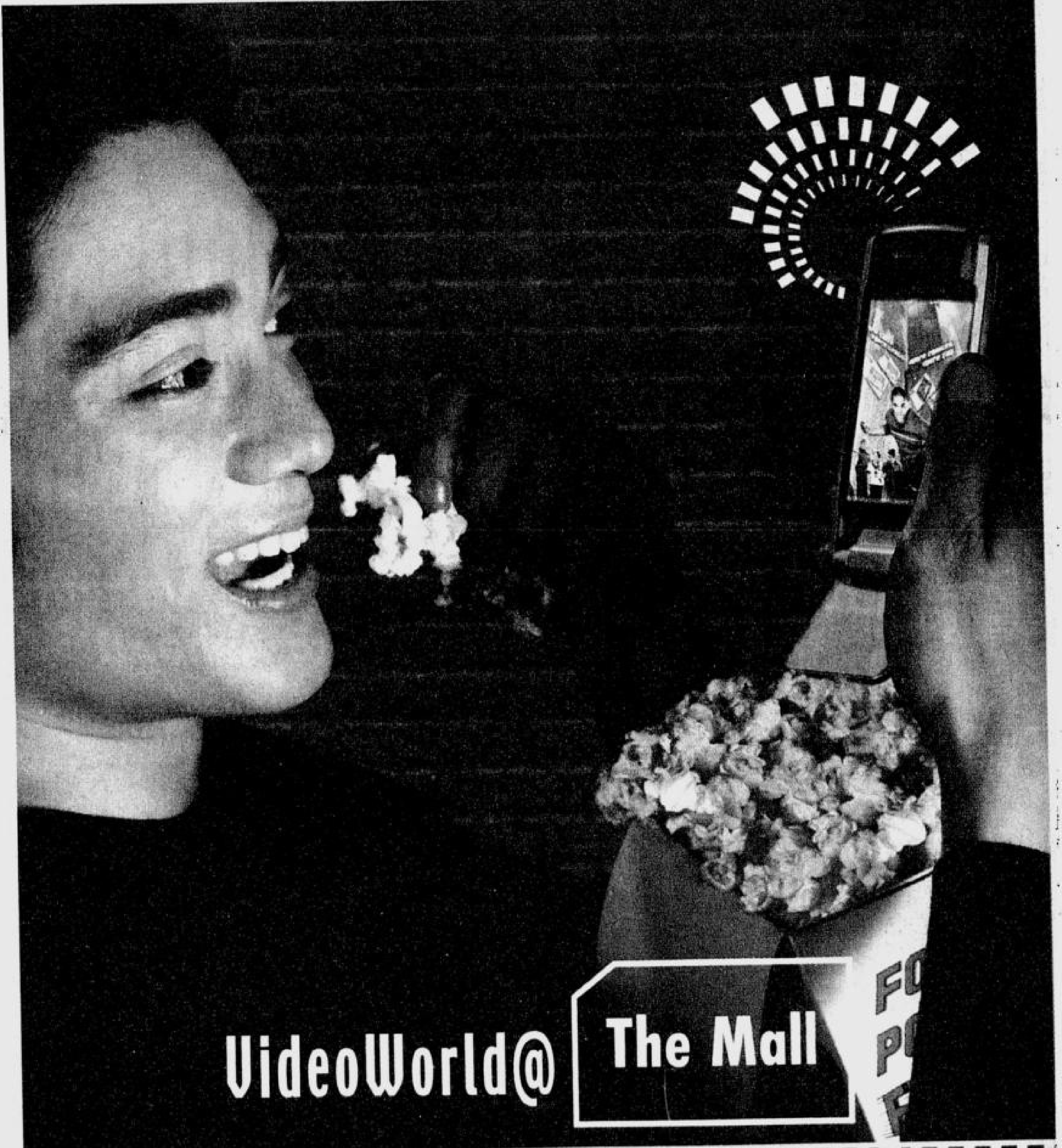

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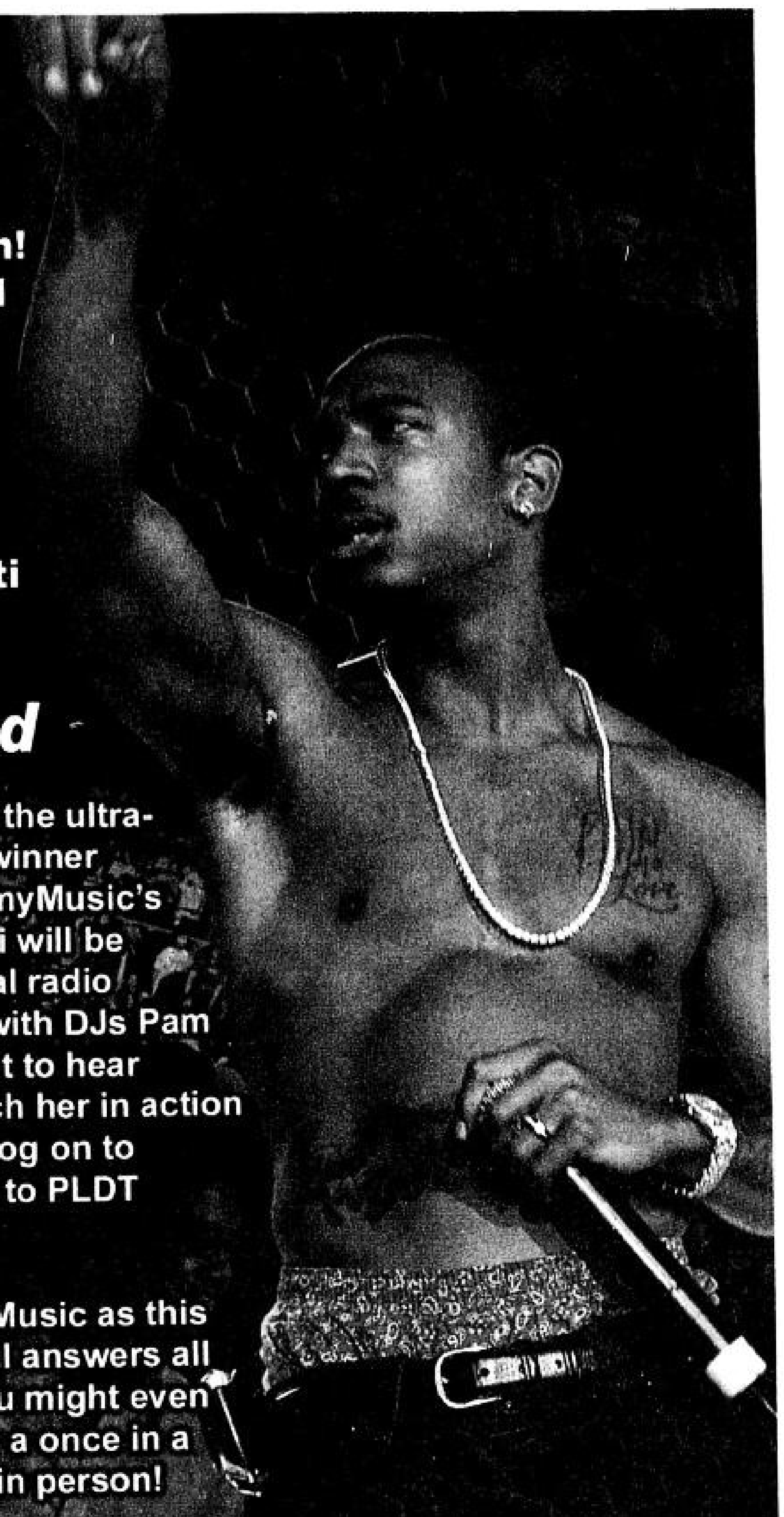

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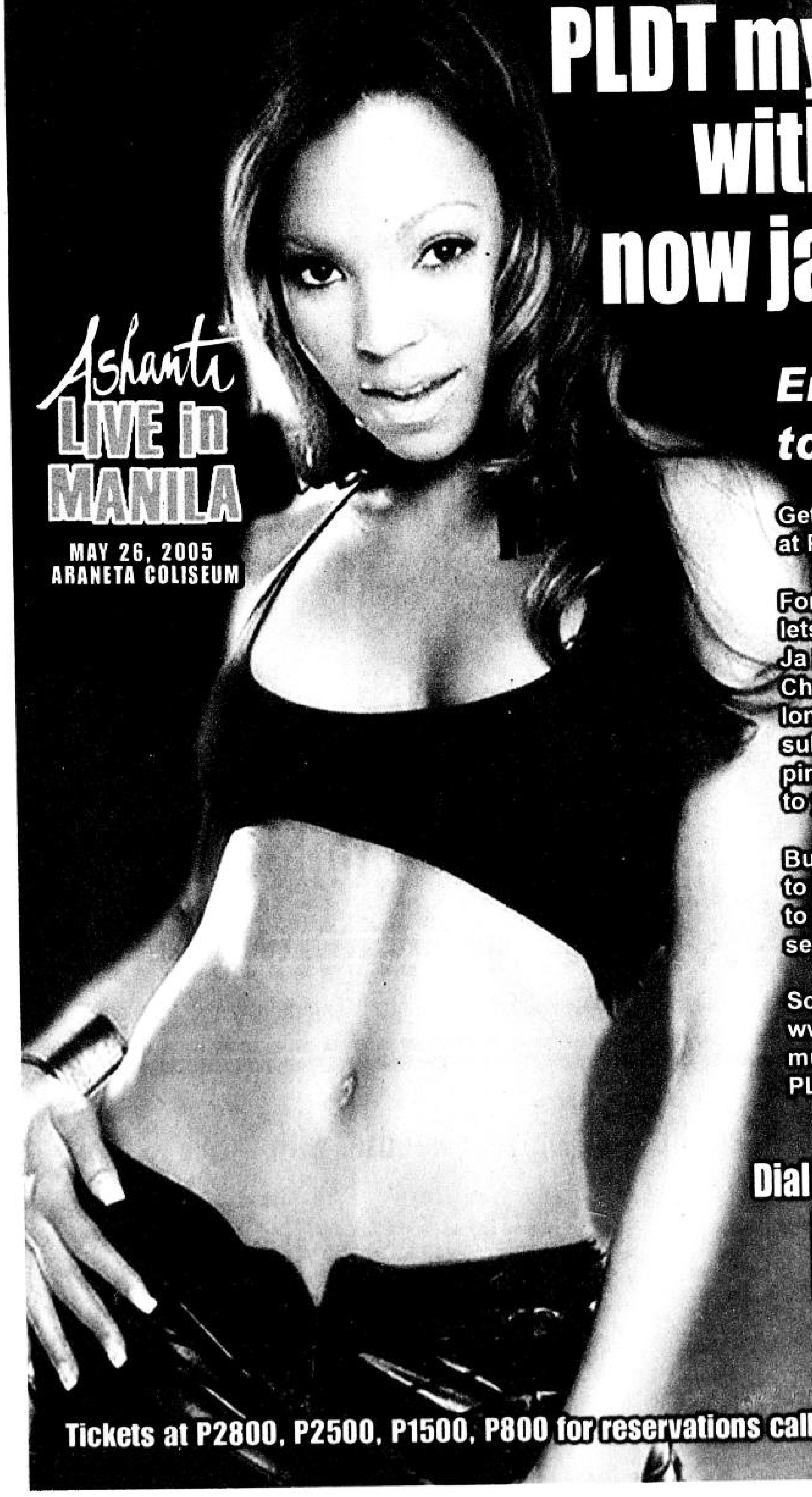

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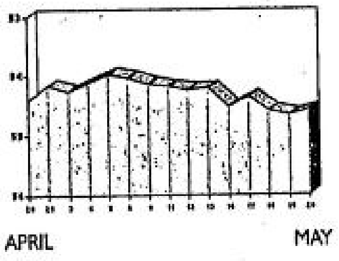

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STOCK MARKET

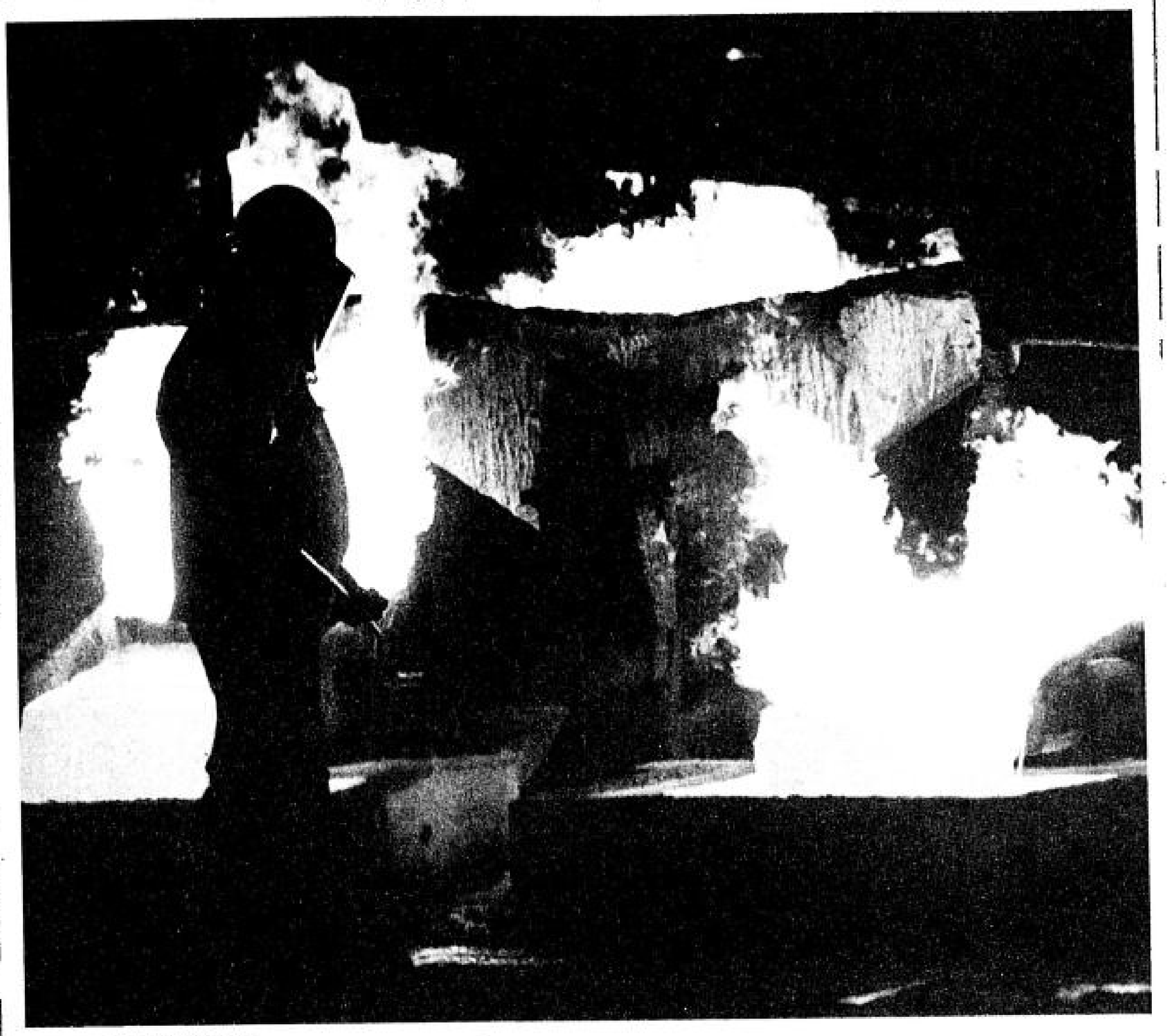
Market seen to move sideways

SHARE prices continued to move at a snail's pace last week with no new leads to spark major interest in stocks for this week, analysts said.

The sluggish appetite was indicated by the benchmark composite index which rose a mere 4.8 points to 1886.73 last week.

Alfred Dy, head of research at CLSA Phils. Inc., said what could possibly trigger

MARKET/ B6



FIRE IN THE HOLE

A WORKER of the Philippine Associated Smelting and Refining Corp. takes an anode sample at the copper smelting plant in Isabel town, Leyte. Pasar, the country's lone copper producer, will raise copper production capacity by 25 percent through a $53-million cash infusion from its major shareholder, Switzerland-based commodity trader Glencore International AG.

REUTERS

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue is going after the Manila Electric Co. to collect over P4 billion worth of withholding taxes.

Meralco's multibillion-peso tax liability arose after the Supreme Court earlier ordered the power firm to refund P30.302 billion to its customers, who availed themselves of the power firm's services from February 1994 to May 2003.

Commercial and industrial customers of Meralco accounted for P18.668 billion of the total amount refunded, while residential clients accounted for the rest.

Revenue Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares said the refund given to commercial and industrial clients of Meralco would be treated as company income, subject to corporate income tax.

In accordance with the Tax Code, she said, Meralco was obligated to withhold at least 25 percent of the income of its corporate clients arising from the refund, and to remit the withheld taxes to the government.

The BIR recently issued Revenue Regulation No. 8-2005, which provides the guidelines for the payment of taxes related to the Meralco refund. Under the revenue regulation, Meralco, in giving the refund, should withhold 25 percent from its active clients, and 35 percent from companies that have already terminated their contracts with the power firm.

Based on the P18.668 billion worth of refund to Meralco's commercial and industrial clients, and using the minimum 25-percent withholding tax for estimation, the power firm owes the BIR at least P4.667 billion in withholding taxes.

The revenue regulation also stressed that a company that is entitled to a refund should pay the corresponding income tax, since the refund is considered an income. The refund shall be subject to the 35-percent corporate income tax.

The amount of taxes already withheld by Meralco from the company shall, however, be deducted from its income tax liability.

For instance, if a firm would be refunded P1 million, Meralco should withhold P250,000 based on the 25-percent withholding tax rate. Then, based on the 35-percent corporate income tax, the company would be liable for P350,000 worth of income tax. But the P250,000 already withheld by Meralco should be deducted from the firm's income tax liability, therefore making it liable to remit only P100,000 to the BIR.

BIR/ B6

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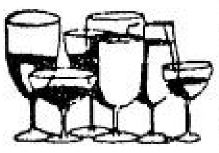

Soaking the rich COCKTALES/B5
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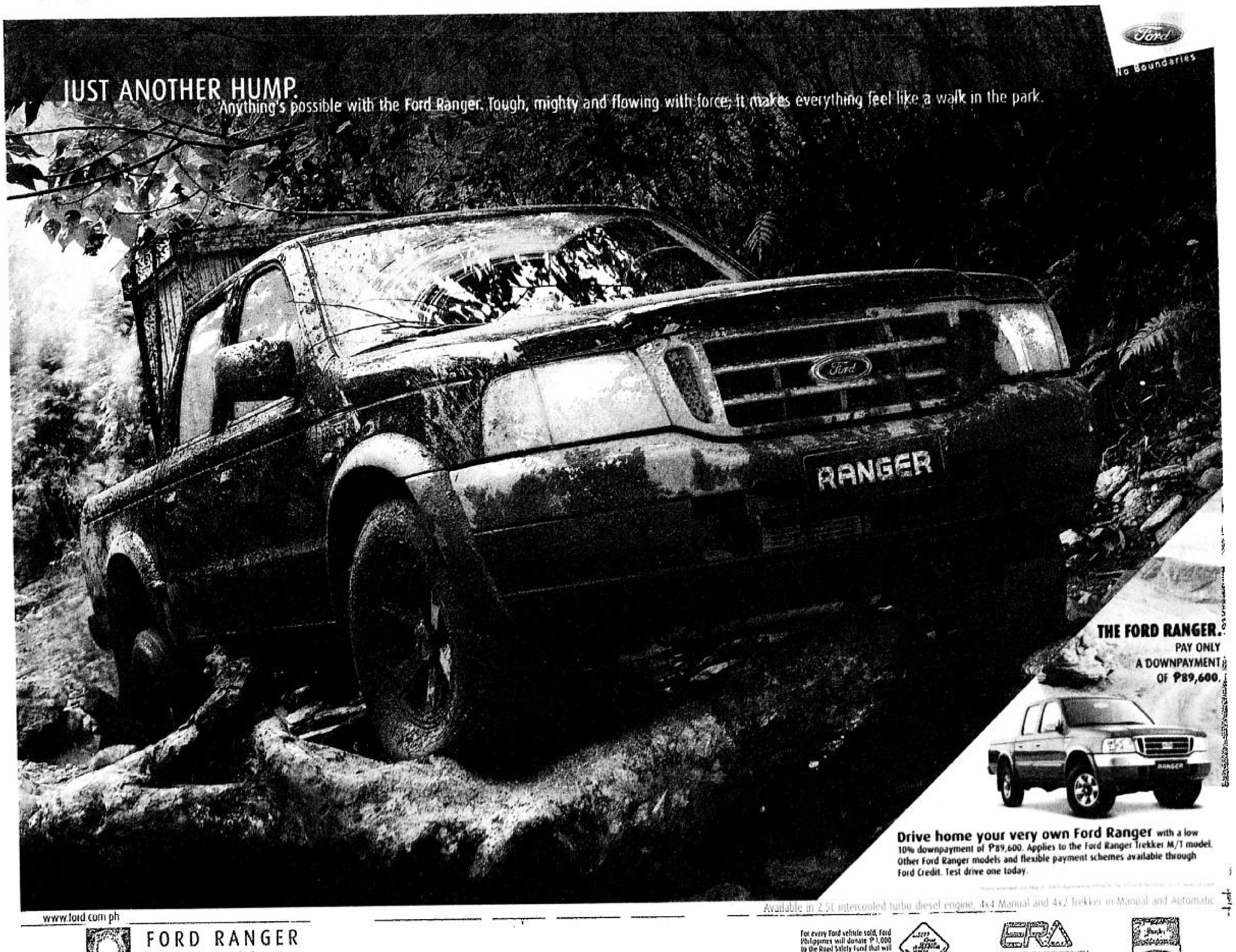
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More than oil prices?

No Free Lunch

Cielito F. Habito

IN REACTION to my recent column on inflation (No Free Lunch, May 9), a regular reader who has been a close watcher of the Philippine economy suggests that beyond promoting wider understanding of the concept, I may also provoke wider discussion of the issues surrounding inflation in this country.

In particular, he is not prepared to let the BSP off the hook by saying that since our current surge in inflation comes from disturbances on the supply side, especially the rapid rise in world petroleum prices, the central bank's money supply-targeting function (i.e. monetary policy) cannot be relied upon to curb inflation.

He thinks otherwise.

Supply and demand

As pointed out in my earlier column on the subject, the inflation rate is the rate of increase of the general price level. Just as supply and demand for any particular commodity under a competitive market determines its price, the general price level is the joint result of the country's aggregate supply and aggregate demand (i.e. for all goods and services combined).

The law of supply and demand is universal.

Government can influence aggregate demand in several ways.

It can, through the central bank's monetary policy, control how much money circulates in people's hands, a direct determinant of their demand for goods and services.

It can raise taxes, thereby lowering people's demand for goods and services because they are left with less income available for spending, or vice versa.

Or it can directly raise or lower demand for goods and services through general government expenditures.

The latter two, i.e. managing the level of taxes and/or government spending, is what is known as fiscal policy.

Key factors affecting supply of all goods and services include oil prices, the foreign exchange rate, and wage rates.

All other things affecting the cost of doing business are relevant as well: infrastructure, corruption, peace and order, the country's legal framework, interest rate on loans, efficiency of firm operations, and so on.

While government could exercise some control over these, aggregate supply is more prone to forces beyond its direct control, especially external ones, e.g. oil prices.

Hands off

Our reader then asks: "Can a major driver of the country's aggregate demand curve—as central banks are—disclaim responsibility for inflation by saying that the inflation was due solely to (movement of) the aggregate supply curve? Shouldn't central banks be concerned about fighting inflation, whether or not inflation arises from demand pull or supply push?"

He adds: "I have not observed the [United States] Federal Reserve Bank or the European Central Bank throwing up their hands and saying that they can do very little to fight inflation because the inflation arises mainly from supply push factors, such as the rise in oil prices."

For example, on Dec. 15, 2004, the Federal Reserve raised its key federal funds rate for the fifth time in 2004, to 2.25 percent, in order to control inflation.

On that same date, the Bank of Thailand (BoT) raised its key interest rate, the 14-day bond repurchase rate, for the third time in four months, also aimed to curb inflation. On the contrary, the BSP has consistently rejected any interest rate hikes to head off inflation, even as other central banks such as the US Fed and the BoT had raised theirs.

In fact, our reader points out, the BSP in its third quarter 2004 Inflation Report virtually admitted the expansionary stance of monetary policy and rising inflationary pressures, as its figures manifested excess liquidity (translation: too much money supply).

This was seen in the reported oversubscriptions to government securities in the third quarter, which amounted to P28.7 billion (P105.7 billion tenders against P77 billion total offerings). In contrast, second quarter oversubscriptions only amounted to P660 million.

The real culprit?

With these arguments, the extent of our current surge in inflation may be traced to more than the oil price increases.

Indeed, other critics have pointed out that while Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore, among others, have been subject to the same petroleum price surges, their respective inflation rates have not surged as dramatically as ours, still posting low inflation rates of 2.8, 2.4 and 0.2 percent respectively.

There is sentiment that we may be using oil price increases as too much of a scapegoat to hide other "sins" that have really been equally, if not more responsible for our rather high 8.5 percent inflation rate.

My thoughtful reader's e-mail ends with a series of rhetorical questions that say it all:

"How innocent is the government from driving up the aggregate demand curve, resulting in the acceleration of inflation? Isn't the high budget deficit of recent years a prime indicator of massive fiscal stimulus to the economy?

"How innocent is the government from causing a huge demand stimulus to the economy due to massive election spending last year?

"How innocent is the BSP from abetting such election spending? Doesn't the high real GDP growth of over 6 percent in 2004 owe a lot to election spending? Doesn't the high inflation rate owe a lot to election spending and its delayed spillover effects as well?

"High inflation is the most insidious form of hidden taxation of the people, especially when government, through fiscal and monetary mismanagement, is the cause of the inflation.

"Has any government ever admitted that it was responsible for high inflation?

"Isn't it time for people to know the truth?"

(Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu)

Sin taxes in place, but collection declines

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT'S excise tax collection from tobacco manufacturers surprisingly dropped by 22 percent in the first quarter of the year, despite the recent enactment of a law increasing taxes on cigarettes.

According to the Bureau of Internal Revenue, its excise tax collection from tobacco firms reached only P4.29 billion in the first three months, compared with the P5.51 billion it collected during the same period last year.

For March alone, excise tax collection dropped to P1.7 billion from P1.8 billion a year ago.

The drop in excise tax collection contradicted projections that the BIR would raise more revenues from cigarette manufacturers after the enactment of the Sin Tax law in January.

The law raised the excise tax rates imposed on all cigarette and alcohol brands. The new tax rate for cigarettes are: P2 per pack for low-end cigarettes; P6.35 per pack for medium-end cigarettes; P10.35 per pack for high-end cigarettes; and P25 per pack for premium cigarettes.

The lower excise tax collection prompted the BIR to scrutinize the tax compliance of cigarette firms and to implement a tighter monitoring scheme on their factory operations.

According to BIR Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares, the BIR has already visited the factories of Philip Morris and Fortune Tobacco, two of the biggest cigarette makers in the country.

She said the BIR was setting up a computerized system of detecting the volume of cigarettes that would come out of the factories of Philip Morris and Fortune, and calculating the corresponding amounts of their excise tax liabilities.

BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said that the revenue agency would be prepared to prosecute cigarette companies that would be found cheating on their taxes.

Fortune, owned by tycoon Lucio Tan, is already facing tax evasion charges worth billions of pesos before the Marikina Metropolitan Trial Court.

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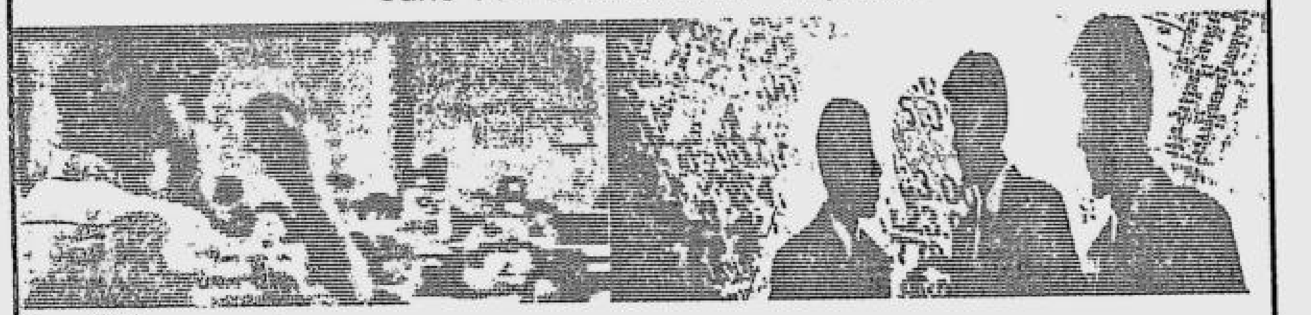

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PROF. ELI P. SANTOS, Ph.D.
Prof. Santos is an expert in management, strategic leadership and planning, and organizational improvement. A member of the core faculty of the AIM W. SyCip Graduate School of Business, he is also the co-founder and president of Foremost CPG Brands Corporation. Prior to this, he was the president and CEO of Marsman and Co., president of Macondray Distribution Co. He holds a doctorate in Organizational Development from the Southeast Asia Interdisciplinary Development Institute and an MBA from De La Salle University.

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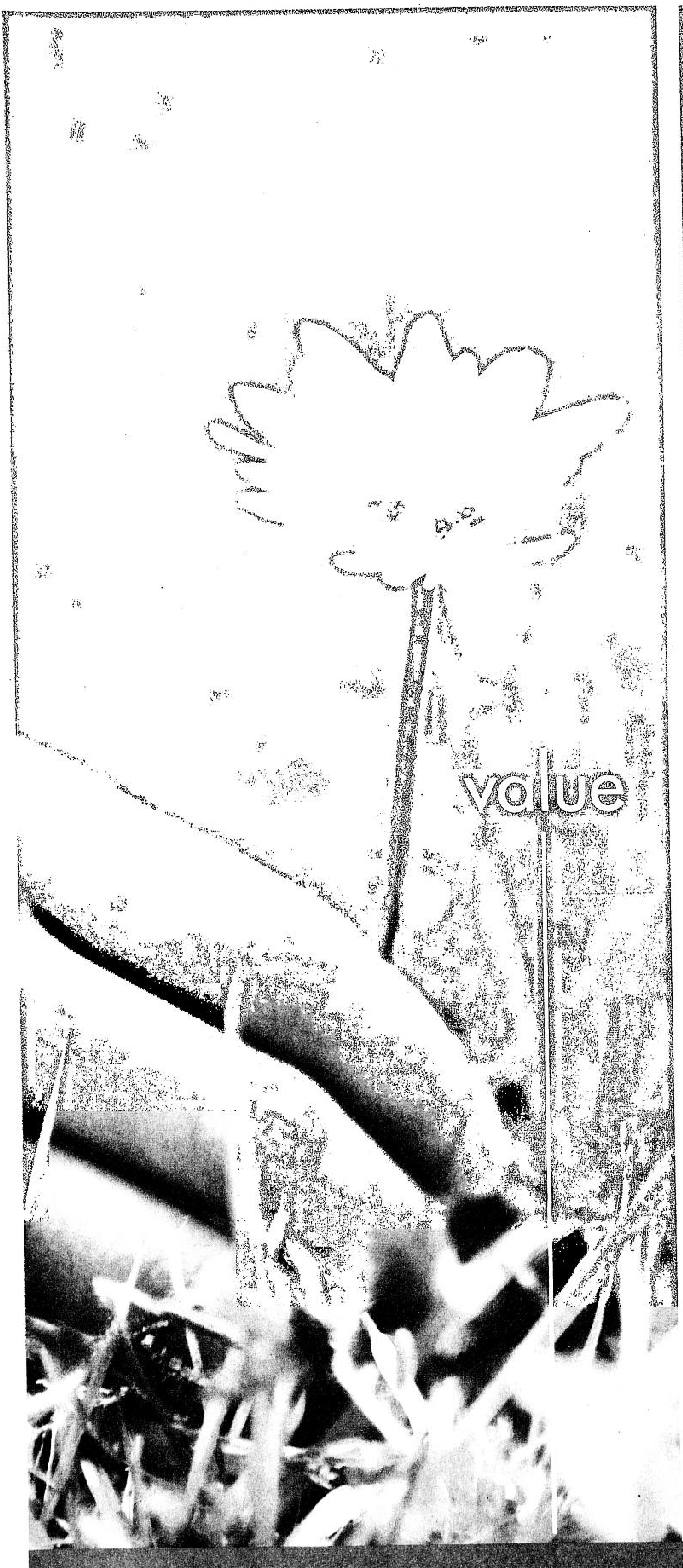

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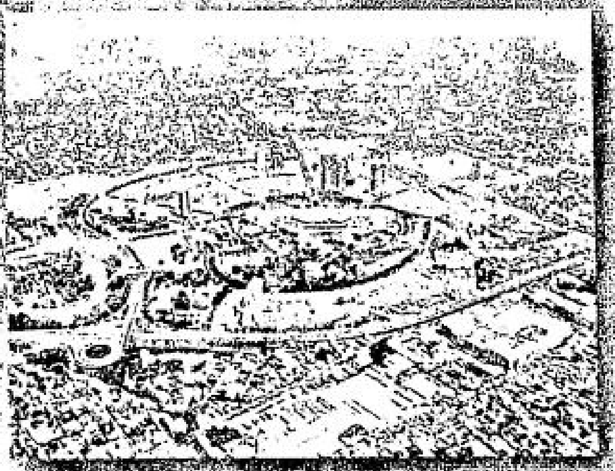

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PLDT exec still bent on acquiring GMA 7

By Clarissa S. Batino

TOP TELCO executive Manuel V. Pangilinan has not given up plans to own a television station and has continued to woo the owners of GMA Network Inc. to sell.

GMA president Felipe Gozon himself confirmed that Pangilinan has remained interested in acquiring Channel 7, now the most profitable broadcast network in the country.

In 2001, PLDT's Mediaquest Holdings Inc. planned to acquire 66.67 percent of GMA for P8.5 billion.

But after due diligence of GMA's books, the telecom giant reduced its valuation of the television firm to about P12 billion, from P14.58 billion.

Negotiations eventually fell through, but the parties kept in touch.

"Manny [Pangilinan] has not lost his interest in Channel 7. That is why we keep on talking," said the GMA president in an interview.

Gozon, however, refused to elaborate on their talks.

Suffice to say, he said, that with GMA's market value now estimated at about P30 billion, Pangilinan would have to make a very attractive offer for the network's major shareholders to consider selling.

GMA earned P400.5 million in the first three months this year, up 62 percent against the same period in 2004 when advertising load was abnormally high due to the May presidential elections.

Fierce competitor ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., on the other hand, suffered a net loss of P114 million.

PANGILINAN

The network giant scrapped a planned public listing this year after one of the three major shareholders disagreed on a provision that would keep control of the network among themselves, and at the same time, prevent the likes of Pangilinan from gaining control of the broadcast firm.

GMA 7 is not the only prospect being eyed by Pangilinan.

He is also on top of plans of PLDT and mother firm, First Pacific Co. Ltd., to expand and acquire more firms in the Philippines and in the region.

Last week, regional markets were abuzz with rumors that First Pacific was talking with a Sri Lankan telecom company for a possible takeover.

First Pacific Co. Ltd., a Hong Kong conglomerate that Pangilinan founded in the early 80's using the money of the Salim clan of Indonesia, raised almost $200 million in debt early this year for the company's expansion into other businesses.

PLDT is talking with American direct broadcast company, Echostar, for a local joint venture.

The telecom giant said it would use its cash to invest about $85 million into the company that would provide direct-to-home television to the local market.

Strengthening the PPSTA

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

ALMOST half of the 457,000 public school teachers all over the country are paying members of the Philippine Public School Teachers Association.

The PPSTA is a mutual benefit association. Like an insurance company, PPSTA collects money from members. For a monthly payment of P210, a member is insured under a P150,000 life insurance policy, with a double indemnity rider for accidental death.

For a small additional premium, a teacher may enroll in a plan that will give him P50,000 lump sum upon retirement. For emergency needs, a member can borrow as much as P20,000 payable in 12 or 24 months. Modest but comfortable dormitory in the PPSTA premises in Quezon City is available for provincial visitors at a subsidized rate of P100 a night. Finally, there is a scholarship program.

PPSTA is big business. It has total assets of P2.5 billion. Land and building owned are valued at P500 million. Its cash and time deposits come up to P630 million. Last year, PPSTA paid P253 million in death and retirement benefits, and released P300 million in loans.

Being a mutual benefit association, the PPSTA, by law, is supervised by the Insurance Commission. Recently, Insurance Commissioner Benjamin Santos appointed his bosom buddy Daniel Gomez to run and strengthen the PPSTA.

Gomez is armed with the powers of a conservator. Under the Insurance Code, a conservator "takes charge of the assets, liabilities, … collects all moneys and debts due … exercises all powers necessary to preserve the assets, … and reorganizes the management."

The conservator can "overrule, or revoke the actions of the previous management and board of directors, any provision of law, or of the articles of incorporation or by laws of the company, to the contrary notwithstanding."

The conservator is an absolute dictator.

Gomez is well prepared for the job. He took postgraduate studies in management and finance in the United States, where he roomed with Commissioner Santos. Gomez retired as the chief finance officer of the buying arm of the American giant retailer Wal-Mart.

In three weeks since his appointment, Gomez has been like a typhoon at the PPSTA. He has been relentless in putting in place cost-saving ideas, internal cash control measures, and new practices and procedures aimed at improving the investment yield of the cash reserves.

He cut board meetings (which cost the teachers P180,000 per meeting) from monthly to quarterly. All contracts and officers' perks inimical to the interest of members have been terminated. For example, an obscure rural bank somewhere in far away Parañaque was a depository. Gomez closed the account.

Above all, Gomez has tremendously improved services to the teacher-members, who are really the owners of PPSTA.

"Service to the Teacher" is the new PPSTA byword.

A loan applicant used to carry his papers from floor to floor, and from desk to desk. Not anymore.

The loan system has been thoroughly computerized. Today, the teacher files the loan application on the first floor, and waits in an air-conditioned lounge. In half an hour, the check is handed to the member. There are no more fixers at the PPSTA. Before, the check had to be cashed in a bank half an hour away. Today, the bank is just across the street.

The teachers can now rest easy. The PPSTA is in excellent hands.

Over a few rounds of beer the other night, Gomez told me he has a long way to go. He feels he has barely scratched the surface. But he enjoys what he is doing, which is really helping out our public school teachers who have been victimized for so long.

I raised my beer glass and wished him well.

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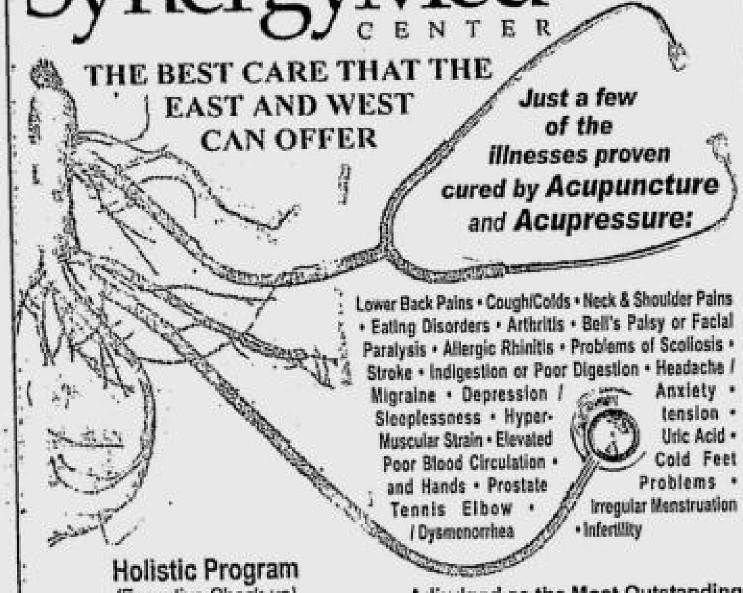

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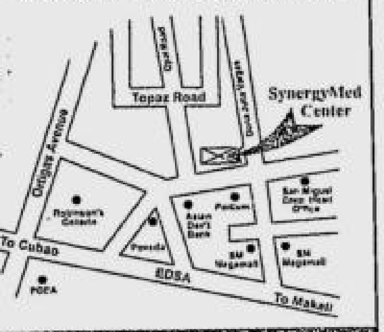

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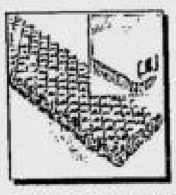

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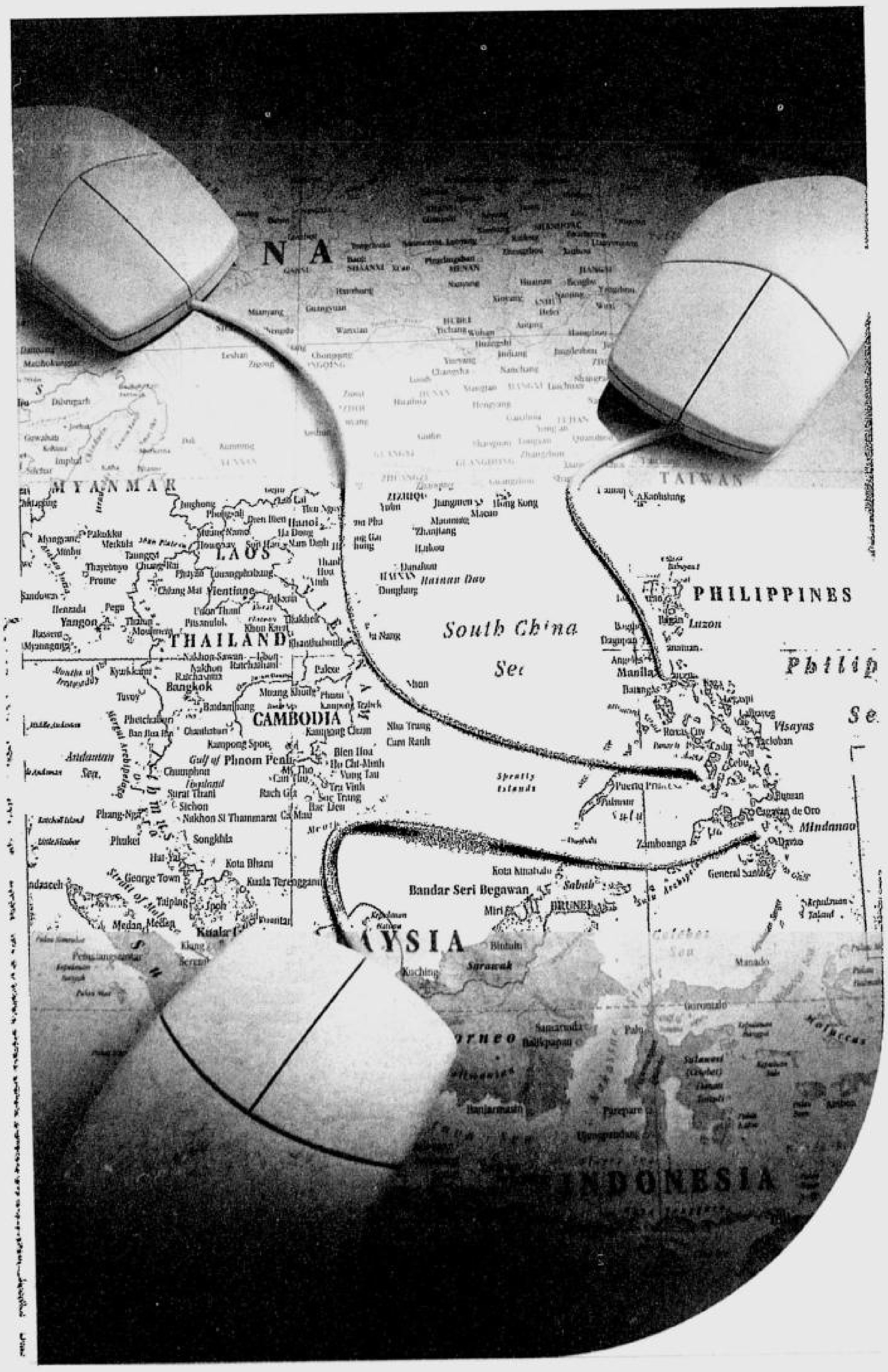

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Soaking the rich

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE WELL-HEELED buyers of condo units, as well as the commercial tenants in The Fort, are being made to pay through their noses with record-high water rates.

This year, The Fort water concessionaire obtained government approval to increase the tariff within the former military installation to an eye-popping P159.96 per cubic meter for residential users, 11 times more expensive than the P14/cu.m. charged to non-Fort residents.

For restaurants and offices, the approved new tariff is P567.06/cu.m., 22 times more than P25/cu.m. being charged among business establishments outside The Fort.

The good news is that the concessionaire, Bonifacio Water Corp., held off any increase amid grumbling from Fort residents and shop owners and kept the present rates of P80/residential and P88/commercial.

According to Aniceto Bisnar Jr., head of Bonifacio Water commercial operations, more than half of the P80 and P88 tariff rates already goes to wastewater collection and treatment/disposal service since The Fort has its own sewerage treatment center, a dollar-denominated facility built by the French partner, Veolia Water.

The Fort residents also now enjoy 24 hours of uninterrupted, world-class water supply even during the summer months, unlike in the recent past where even neighboring Forbes and Dasmariñas residents had to have water trucks deliver to their homes to slake off the shortage.

Still, the present tariffs are already nearly six times and 3.5 times more expensive than those charged to residences and businesses just outside The Fort by Manila Water, incidentally an Ayala-controlled company just like —after Ayala acquired majority control of the Fort Bonifacio complex from the Metro Pacific Group —Bonifacio Water.

Despite now having identical principals, Bonifacio Water is billed at the same bulk commercial rate that Manila Water charges, say, SM Megamall or the Shangri-La hotels.

This January, Manila Water even increased the price of water it wholesales to the Fort affiliate to P37/cu.m.

SanLo terror threat II

THE San Lorenzo Village Association has obtained a court order to temporarily stop the construction of a commercial building at the corner of Pasay Road and Edsa whose other half lies inside the residential side of the village.

According to court documents, dermatologist Vinson Pineda was originally building two separate structures on two adjoining lots, with the second one, purportedly residential, right inside the village.

Based on the revised building plan, the two structures had been fused, with the basement parking also conjoined and increased to six levels.

The number of lavatories has been increased to 25 as well.

"This cannot possibly be a residential structure anymore," association president Valeriano del Rosario wrote in alarm to fellow SanLo residents.

Even the US Embassy piped in, with housing officer Jaime Barker writing to homeowner/landlord Adela LaO (whom we wrongly identified in the May 13 column as the offending building owner) to express similar sentiments.

"People who enter the basement parking can exit into San Lorenzo Village (where a number of US and other foreign diplomats live) without going through the security screening of San Lorenzo Village," Del Rosario explained.

"This is the cause for the security concern."

Luke where they are now

THE ASB creditors who had opted to convert their cash receivables from ASB Holdings into condo units when the Luke Roxas property company nearly went belly up during the Asian currency crisis appear to be now reaping the upside.

For instance, the Garden Heights Condominium in front of St. Luke's Hospital whose units were bid out to the unsecured creditors for P42,000 a square meter is now being sold by IBank for P60,000/sqm.

"Those who are interested to capitalize…and make a profit of approximately 42 percent before commission and all applicable taxes, ASB Land Inc. is offering to sell the units for you," ASB Holdings receiver Julio Elamparo wrote.

Money-go-round

- THE FORMER and first PriceSmart branch in the country, in Las Piñas' Alabang-Zapote Road, is being converted into a "Dragon Centre" mall by taipan Lucio Tan, who foreclosed the property from the Ever-Gotesco Group.

The Shopwise supermarket of the Rustan's Group is said to be the new mall's anchor tenant.

- CITING stricter US anti-money laundering rules, the Bank of the Philippine Islands is on May 31 stopping its US-dollar checking account services that it has for years provided to its private banking clients.

Heard through the grapevine

THE FORBES house of former San Miguel chair Andres Soriano III, where he lived with his former wife Vicky Hagedorn, has been quietly put on the block.

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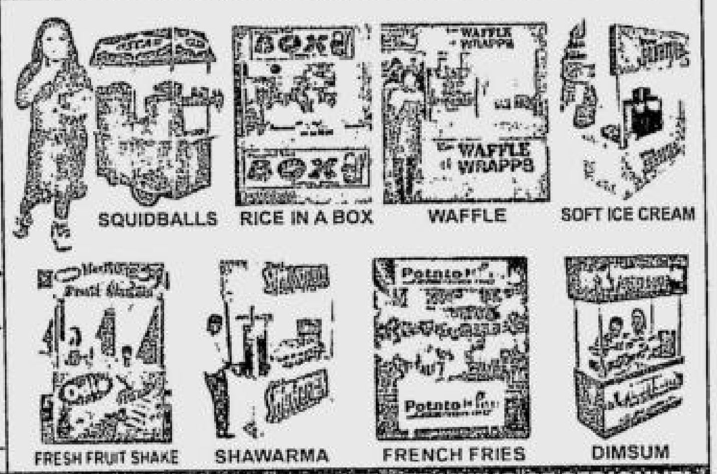

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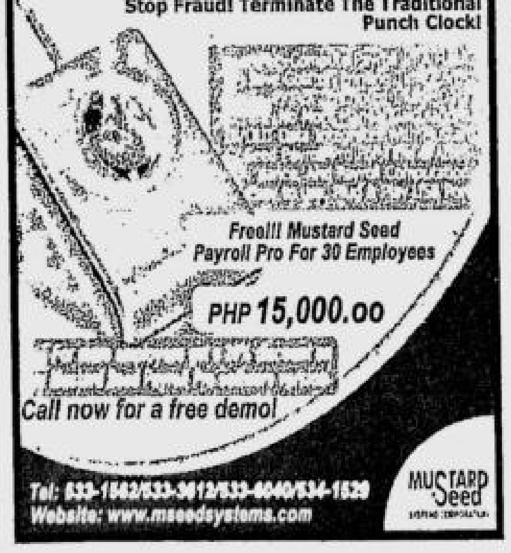

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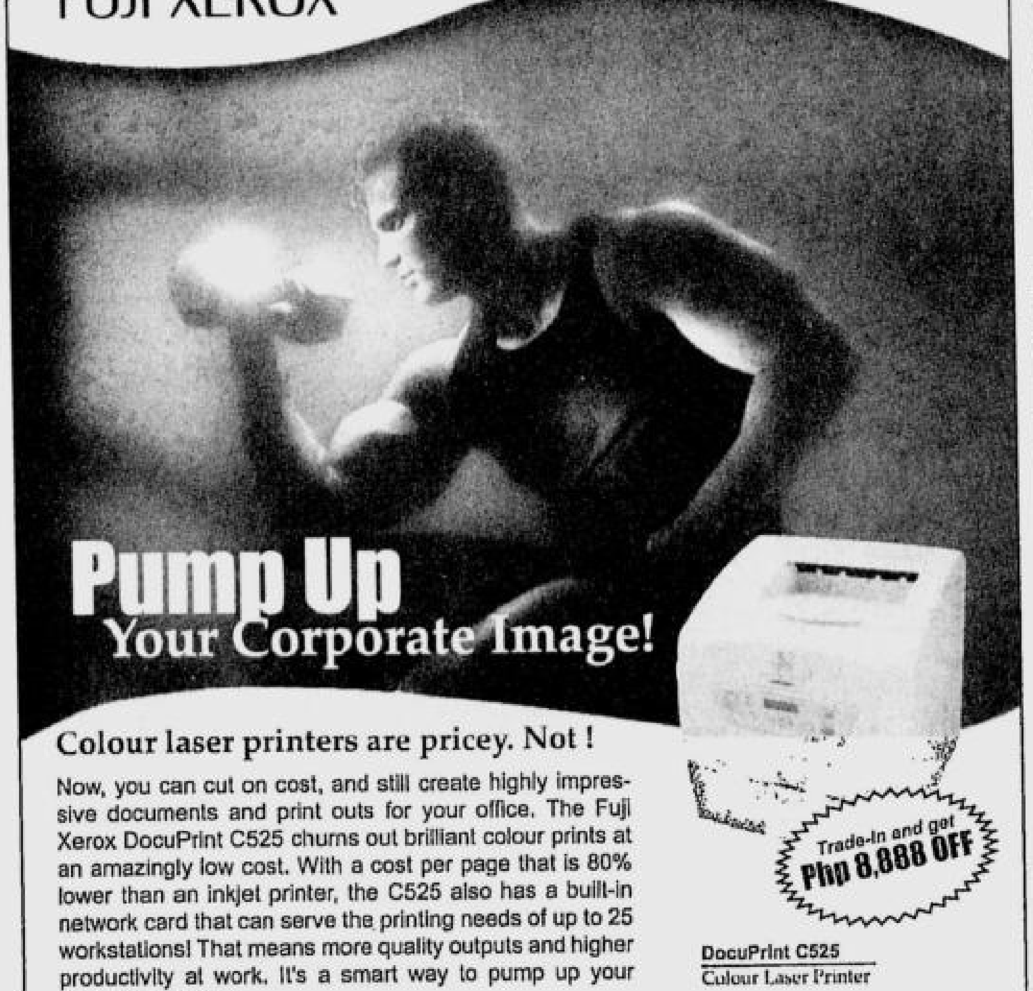

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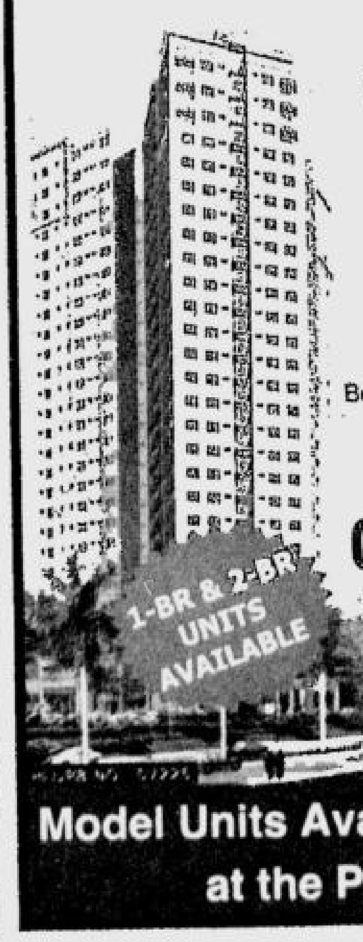

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SMC still keen on Del Monte

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN Miguel Corp. intends to pursue its bid to buy into Singapore-listed pineapple manufacturer Del Monte Pacific Ltd., company president Ramon Ang said.

Ang said the company was also considering a possible investment in New Zealand Dairy Foods, a key player in the milk, cheese and yoghurt market.

Last month, Italian food maker Cirio Finanziara S.p.A. ended negotiations with the group of taipan Lucio Tan for the possible sale of its 40-percent block in DMPL.

Cirio also announced it was deferring the planned sale of its stake in DMPL for now.

The commissioners of Cirio said that Basic Holdings, the private holding firm of Tan had "elected not to implement its offer" to buy Cirio's stake.

With the talks between Cirio and the Tan group now over, SMC was hoping it could pursue its bid to buy into the pineapple company.

Del Monte officials, however, could not immediately comment on SMC's renewed interest in the Cirio stake.

SMC earlier submitted a conditional offer to buy Cirio's stake in DMPL.

ANG

However, the offer of Tan's Basic Holdings to buy the Cirio stake for $180 million to $200 million topped the other bids, prompting the selling party to start negotiations with Basic.

After months of negotiations, Cirio announced that Basic decided not to implement its offer.

Cirio's block was earlier valued at around $174 million based on market prices.

The Lorenzo family—which owns Pancake House and Macondray Plastics—is the second biggest stakeholder of DMPL with a 21-percent equity holding. The family earlier said it was interested in matching the highest bid for Del Monte.

Cirio Finanziaria is under liquidation after defaulting on 1.3 billion euros ($1.6 billion) in obligations in November 2002.

In the meantime, Ang said SMC could borrow up to $2 billion to finance its planned acquisitions.

"San Miguel has debt capacity to raise $2 billion more for acquisitions," Ang said.

Ang said that SMC wanted to complete its product lines—food, beer, hard liquor and packaging—in the Asia Pacific rim. It is currently pursuing an aggressive expansion program in the region, particularly in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam and Australia.

SMC will set aside P15 billion as capital spending in the next two years, excluding budget for acquisitions. Of the amount, SMC expects to spend 60 percent this year, and the remaining 40 percent in 2006.

BIR goes after Meralco over ₱4-B tax debt

From page B1

In April 2003, the Supreme Court ordered Meralco to refund its customers after ruling that the power firm should have increased its rates by only P0.017 per kilowatt-hour, instead of the P0.184 it actually implemented from February 1994 to May 2003.

Meralco implemented the P0.184 increase after the petition for the rate hike was approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission. But the ERB later on ordered the refund after getting a recommendation from the Commission on Audit that income taxes paid by Meralco should not be part of its operating expenses that are used as a basis for determining rate adjustment.

Under the order of the Energy Regulatory Commission (formerly ERB), Meralco should first refund its residential customers followed by the commercial and industrial. Meralco is scheduled to finish refunding its residential clients this year and begin refunding its commercial and industrial clients.

Market seen ...

From page B1

excitement in the market would be banking stocks on news of mergers and acquisitions.

"The market this week should move sideways, with a slight upward bias," Dy said. "Sector to watch out for this week is the banking sector due to renewed interest in stocks like Banco de Oro and Equitable PCI Bank on a possible bidding war."

Retail magnate Henry Sy is said to be on the verge of launching another bid to take over control of Equitable PCI Bank, the third largest bank in the country. Sy's Banco de Oro Universal Bank earlier offered to buy 10.73 million shares of EBC Investments Inc. Combined with other investors holding Equitable PCI, the total offer would cover as much as 10 percent of EPCI Bank.

BDO is the country's seventh largest bank.

Analysts said BDO's latest offer marked the start of a new bidding war for control of EPCI Bank. The Go family, EPCI Bank's founding stockholder, is said to be keen on enlisting the support of tycoon John Gokongwei to foil the SM Group's takeover.

The Go and Gokongwei family denied they were forging an alliance. But banking sources said there was indeed a share-swap deal being negotiated between Gokongwei's Robinsons Savings Bank and EPCI Bank. The move is seen to pave the way for Gokongwei's return to EPCI Bank.

BPI Trade said in its report that stocks which managed to book gains were Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Globe Telecom, Philippine National Bank, Equitable PCI, San Miguel Corp., Bank of the Philippine Islands, Manila Electric Co., and SM Prime Holdings. TEL rose P60 while GLO gained P20, which provided strong support to the market.

Weighing on the market were Ayala Land Inc., Ayala Corp., First Philippine Holdings, Jollibee Foods, Metrobank, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., Holcim Philippines, Filinvest Land Inc., and Petron Corp.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 20, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	30,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	49	49.5	48.5	49.5	673,700
China Banking Corp.	750	750	750	750	260
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	1,000
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	700,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	47	48.5	47	48	287,100
International Exch. Bank	18.5	18.75	18.5	18.75	87,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32	32	31	31.5	522,400
Prudential Bank	380	380	380	380	10
Philippine National Bank	34	34	33	33	150,300
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	8,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	27	27	27	27	65,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	290	290	290	290	150
Manulife Financial Corp.	2450	2450	2450	2450	990
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	490,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	142	142	142	142	200
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1680	1705	1680	1700	2,370
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13	13	12.75	12.75	32,800
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.02	1.04	1,795,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	835	840	830	835	36,340
Ipeople Inc.	3.45	3.5	3.4	3.4	63,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.045	0.05	0.045	0.05	500,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.15	3.2	700,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1450	1470	1445	1465	85,300
Ivantage Corp.-	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	200,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	19,300,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	3,000
Manila Electric Co. B	24	24	23.75	23.75	226,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	5.9	6.1	5.9	6.1	6,014,000
Petron Corp.	3.3	3.35	3.2	3.25	5,126,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.78	1.78	2,372,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	2,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.6	7.8	7.6	7.6	758,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	150,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	2,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.57	0.57	240,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.15	3.15	3.05	3.05	512,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	5,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.5	22,300
Jollibee Foods Corp.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	9,300
Pancake House Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	50,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58.5	58	58.5	193,400
San Miguel Corp. B	85.5	85.5	85	85.5	123,500
Universal Robina Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	289,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	10,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.9	1,624,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	50,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.75	4.75	4.7	4.7	1,821,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.94	1.96	1.94	1.96	473,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	1,000,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	2,200
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.94	0.95	11,500,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1,300,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.32	0.33	0.31	0.31	670,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.42	2.5	2.42	2.48	1,760,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	10,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	8	8	7.8	7.8	411,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44.5	45	44	44.5	129,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.13	700,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	3,300,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	85,000
Ionics Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	11,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.72	1.74	1.72	1.72	25,000
Medco Holdings	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	140,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.32	1.32	5,560,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	6,570,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	610,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1	1.1	1	1	62,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	210,000
Sm Investments Corp.	247	248	246	248	1,241,060
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	3,250,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	300,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.2	1.24	1.2	1.22	107,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	10,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	20,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.06	1.1	5,652,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.24	1.32	1.18	1.32	17,052,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	550,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	2,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.25	51,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series K	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	500	500	500	500	400
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.4	7.5	7.2	7.2	8,164,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	400,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	570,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.36	3,010,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.44	1.46	1.36	1.4	21,176,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.2	220,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.9	4.9	4.85	4.85	1,808,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.5	7.3	7.5	3,891,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	8,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4.25	4.25	4	4.05	100,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	3	3	3	3	5,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.3	720,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.31	210,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.014	0.014	0.012	0.013	49,200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.018	19,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.006	70,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.86	0.86	0.82	0.82	1,780,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.98	0.98	0.94	0.94	1,720,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28.5	29.5	28.5	29	523,100
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	160,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	19,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	10,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	120,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	80,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.48	2.48	250,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	730,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	250,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P) (P)
Bank & Fin Svc	3,020,080	80,274,475.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	115,493,700	648,027,545.00
PRO	39,339,000	128,657,800.00
Mining	151,418,100	20,558,200.00
OIL	32,430,000	1,045,350.00
GRAND TOTALS :	341,700,880	878,563,370.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	556.12	UP 0.86
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,981.49	UP 0.02
PRO	683.77	DOWN 22.01
Mining	2,431.50	DOWN 57.03
OIL	2.34	DOWN 0.05
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,152.83	DOWN 2.71
Composite	1,886.73	DOWN 6.36

NO. OF ADVANCES: 24; NO. OF DECLINES: 47; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 52; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 123; NO. OF TRADES: 2,797

CURRENCIES

May 22, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.791264441	1.000000	54.6350
Japan	Yen	0.007352	0.009292	0.5077
United Kingdom	Pound	1.452129	1.835200	100.2662
Hongkong	Dollar	0.101585	0.128383	7.0142
Switzerland	Franc	0.647675	0.818532	44.7205
Canada	Dollar	0.628337	0.794092	43.3852
Singapore	Dollar	0.47799	0.604084	33.0041
Australia	Dollar	0.599761	0.757978	41.4121
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.098956	2.652661	144.9281
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.210999	0.266660	14.5690
Brunei	Dollar	0.476551	0.602265	32.9047
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000106	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.019856	0.025094	1.3710
UAE	Dirham	0.215439	0.272272	14.8756
Euro	Euro	1	1.263800	69.0477
Argentina	Peso	0.274506	0.346921	18.9540
Brazil	REAL	0.323031	0.408247	22.3046
Denmark	Kroner	0.134304	0.169733	9.2734
India	Rupee	0.018232	0.023041	1.2588
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.208255	0.263193	14.3795
Mexico	New Peso	0.072159	0.091195	4.9824
New Zealand	Dollar	0.562897	0.711389	38.8667
Norway	Kroner	0.123416	0.155972	8.5215
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013303	0.016812	0.9185
South Africa	Rand	0.123968	0.156671	8.5597
Korea	Won	0.000788	0.000996	0.0544
Sweden	Kroner	0.10876	0.137451	7.5096
Syria	Pound	0.015243	0.019264	1.0525
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.02524	0.031898	1.7427
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000369	0.000468	0.0255

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ALABANG B	Call Now	PALMS CC	530K	BAGUIO CC	Call now
BAGUIO CC	Call Now	PUNTA FUEGO	550K	JOHN HAY	Call now
CALATAGAN "A"	70K	RIVIERA GCC "A"	165K	CANLUBANG	400K
CANLUBANG	Call Now	RIVIERA SPORTS	45K	MLA GOLF	10.5M
CELEB SPORTS	150K	STA ELENA "A"	1.3M	MLA POLO	2.15M
CC@ TAG	430K	STA ELENA "B"	1.5M	PALMS CC	500K
CLUB FILIPINO	140K	TAG MIDLANDS	680K	STA ELENA "A"	1.2M
MLA GOLF	Call Now	TAG H'LANDS	800K	STA ELENA "B"	1.3M

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GG & A Club Shares
SEC License Broker #007575 * As of May 23, 2005

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,100,000	1,000,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,100,000	-
Baguio Country Club	550,000	530,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	40,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	70,000	-
Camp John Hay	200,000	170,000
Canlubang	550,000	470,000
Canyon Woods	125,000	-
Capitol Hills	95,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,900,000	-
Celebrity Sports Club	120,000	100,000
Club Filipino	150,000	100,000
Eagleridge "A"	200,000	180,000
Eagleridge "B"	290,000	-
Eagleridge "C"	300,000	-
Fairways "C3"	-	300,000
Forest Hills "A"	130,000	100,000
Forest Hills "B"	200,000	180,000
Forest Hills "C"	220,000	-
Makati Sports Club "A"	240,000	190,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	11,500,000	11,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	11,400,000	11,000,000
Manila Polo	2,200,000	2,050,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	400,000	350,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	-	700,000
Manila Yacht Club	Please Call	300,000
Mimosa (Individual)	-	120,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	320,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	220,000	180,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	300,000	180,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	170,000	150,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	450,000	350,000
Quezon City Sports Club	150,000	-
Spa & Lodge	650,000	500,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,300,000	-
Sta. Elena "B"	1,600,000	1,350,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	170,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	100,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	380,000	350,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	700,000	650,000
The Palms Country Club	570,000	500,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	120,000	-
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	-
Valley Golf	250,000	200,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,700,000	6,000,000

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As of May 23, 2005

	SHARES AVAILABLE	
CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,100,000	1,000,000
Alta Vista Corp.	-	230,000
Baguio Country Club	575,000	530,000
Calatagan Golf	40,000	-
Camp John Hay	170,000	140,000
Canyon Woods	140,000	-
Capitol Hills	90,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,900,000	-
Celebrity Sports	120,000	100,000
City Sports Club Cebu	Pls. Call	-
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	200,000/250,000*/Pls. Call**	-
Eastridge A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Evercrest	70,000	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	130,000/200,000*	-
Luisita Golf	310,000	-
Manila Golf Corporate	11,500,000	-
Manila Golf Individual	11,400,000	-
Manila Polo	2,200,000	2,075,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	400,000	370,000/700,000*
Makati Sports Club	210,000	-
Metropolitan Club A/B*	120,000/150,000*	100,000
Mimosa C2/C3*	-	280,000*/350,000**
Mt. Malarayat A/C**	220,000	180,000/300,000**
Orchard A/B*/C**	170,000/320,000*	160,000/270,000*/350,000**
Puerto Azul	60,000	-
Punta Fuego	Pls. Call	-
Quezon City Sports Club	140,000	120,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	90,000/180,000*	180,000**
Riviera Sports	45,000	-
Rockwell Leisure Club	Pls. Call	-
Royale Tagaytay CC	80,000	-
Sherwood A/B*/C**	70,000/110,000*/160,000**	-
Splendido	-	250,000
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,300,000/1,600,000*	1,100,000
The Palms Country Club	550,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	350,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	670,000
Tagaytay Midlands	700,000	650,000
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Tower Club	Pls. Call	-
Valley Golf	250,000	-
Valle Verde Ind.	120,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	6,490,000	6,200,000

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OUR 23rd Year

CLUB	SELLING	BUYING
Alabang Country Club	1.050M	-
Baguio Country Club	850K	-
Canlubang Golf Club	500K	-
Canyon Woods	125K	-
Capitol Hills "A"	100K	
Celebrity Sports Club	120K	115K
Cebu Country Club	1.9M	
Club Filipino		90K
Eagleridge Golf Club "A"	200K	-
Eagleridge Golf Club "B"	290K	
Eagleridge Golf Club "C"	280K	
Eastridge Golf Club "A"	100K	
Forest Hills (Individual)	100K	
Makati Sports Club "A"	190K	
Manila Polo Club (Corp.)	-	11M
Manila Polo Club (Individual)	-	10.5M
Manila Polo Club		2.150M
Manila Southwoods "A"	390K	
Manila Southwoods "B"		700K
Mabo Club "A"	120K	90K
Orchard Golf Club "A"	170K	
Orchard Golf Club "B"	320K	280K
Orchard Golf Club "C"		350K
Puerto Azul Beach Club	85K	-
Quezon City Sports Club "A"	150K	
Riviera Golf Club "A"		70K
Riviera Golf Club "B"	160K	-
Riviera Sports Club	50K	
Royale Tagaytay		60K
Spa & Lodge	650K	-
Sta. Elena Golf Club "A"	1.3M	
Sta. Elena Golf Club "B"		1.4M
The Country Club at TH	450K	350K
Tagaytay Midlands		680K
Tower Club (Corp.)	300K	-
Valle Verde Club (Ind.)	130K	
Valley Golf Club	250K	
Wack Wack Golf Club	6.5M	

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RP expects ratings upgrade

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES will likely merit an improved ratings outlook by major rating agencies this year on the back of recent progress in fiscal consolidation, said a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas official.

In an interview on Friday, BSP executive director for investor relations Renato Pizarro said: "Definitely, all the positive things that happened were providing the basis for the recognition of the efforts that the government had put in."

Aside from the passage of the value added tax (VAT) reform package, Pizarro said the Philippines had achieved a lot of milestones: the record Bureau of Internal Revenue collections in April; the rising balance of payment surplus; the appreciation of the peso against the US dollar; the uptrend in the equity market ; declining interest rates, and the strong inflow of migrant remittances.

Rating agencies Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investor Service recently gave the country a sovereign credit rating outlook of "stable," after the downgrades early this year.

In January, S&P cut the Philippines' long-term sovereign foreign currency credit rating by one notch to BB- from BB, citing the government's "inadequate" response to its fiscal problems, bringing its debt rating three notches below the much-coveted investment grade rating.

S&P is sending a team to the country to conduct an onsite assessment on May 30 to June 4.

In February, Moody's slashed its own rating on the Philippines by two notches to B1 from Ba2, warning of heightened vulnerability to economic, financial and political shocks due to ballooning public debts.

London-based credit rating agency Fitch Ratings spared the Philippines from a debt rating downgrade in its last assessment in November (BB), but changed its outlook to "negative" from "stable" due to heightened concerns on fiscal vulnerability.

A negative outlook means a downgrade may still be possible in the near term while a stable outlook means the current rating will likely stay in the near-term.

While it remains uncertain when the Philippines can recover from the credit rating downgrades by S&P and Moody's, Pizarro said an improvement in the outlook would be feasible within this year.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura has been saying that a change in the outlook by S&P and Moody's to "positive," for instance, would be as good as an upgrade and would immediately be priced in by the financial markets.

Government fiscal managers say that with the passage of the VAT reform law, the commitment to raise at least P80 billion in new revenues this year has been met.

Pancake House posts Q1 net loss of ₱3.5M

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PANCAKE House Inc. incurred a net loss of P3.46 million in the first quarter mainly due to debt servicing expenses.

Pancake House, which posted a profit of P6.1 million in the first quarter last year, had to pay down interests on a loan used in acquiring Dencio's Foods Specialists Inc., a bar and grill restaurant chain.

To fund the P160-million purchase of Dencio's, Pancake House secured a P150-million loan from Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.

The loan bears an interest of about 15 percent due quarterly. The loan is payable in three tranches: P45 million each in 2006 and 2007 and P60 million in 2008.

Earnings before income tax were down to P17.2 million from P16.76 million in the previous year.

Revenue grew 70.3 percent to P148.95 million, from P87.5 million the previous year. Restaurant sales increased to P86.9 million from P53.6 million.

For Pancake House restaurants, alone, revenue was up 18 percent to P103.24 million.

Dencio's operations, alone, resulted in a net loss of P7.51 million due to one-time charges amounting to P2.09 million. These represented amortization of leasehold improvements in outlets that were closed for renovation or relocation, and rental charges during the construction of certain outlets.

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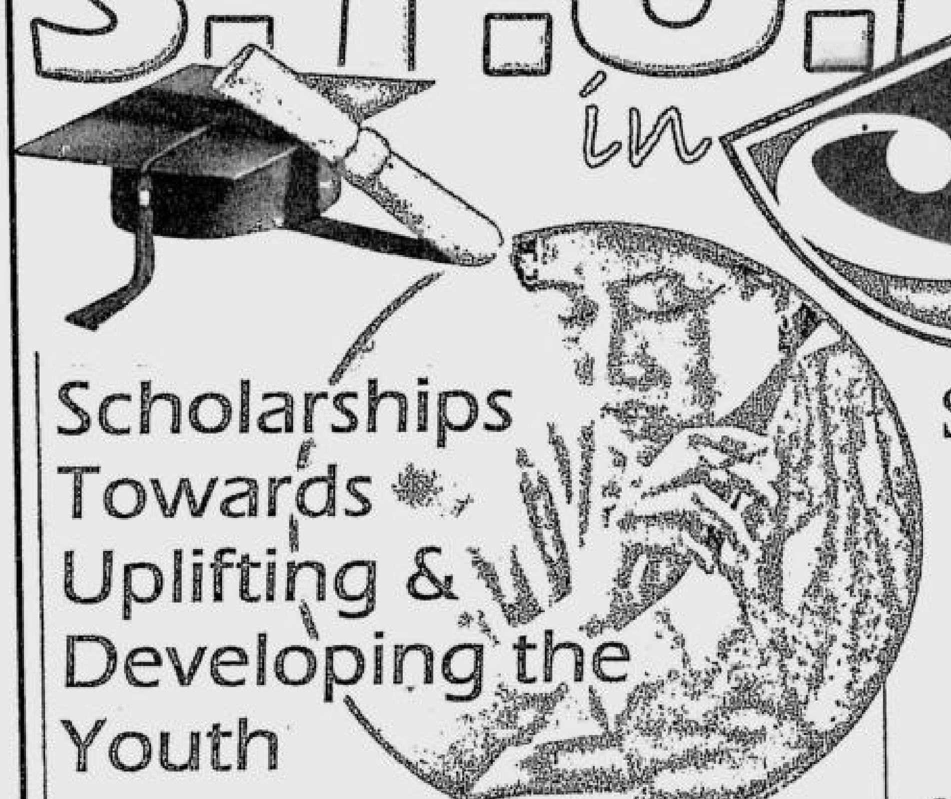

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0-3% duty on powdered juices questioned

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE SUGAR industry is planning to elevate to the Department of Finance its complaint against a Bureau of Customs' decision on an American company's importation of powdered juices.

The Confederation of Sugar Producers Association and the Sugar Regulatory Authority earlier questioned the importation by Kraft Foods International of powdered juices at zero to 3 percent tariff.

The Confed said the duty on pre-mixed juices should be 48 percent, as provided by Executive Order No. 295, if they had more than 65 percent sugar content in dry weight or if they have ingredients other than flavoring and coloring.

Despite the complaint, however, the Confed said Customs had continued to allow the said company's importation of pre-mixed juices Tang and Kool Aid at zero to 3-percent tariff.

The group and the Sugar Regulatory Authority said the BOC's valuation and classification review committee "saw nothing wrong in Kraft's importation and the zero to 3-percent tariff imposed on the imported powdered juices."

Confed argued that the continued importation of these powdered drinks at very low duties was detrimental to the local sugar industry.

Confed president Rey Bantug, in a statement, said the BOC should reconsider its position on the questioned importation because the pre-mixed juices shipped in by Kraft, as analyzed by the SRA's agro-industrial laboratory, had more than 90 percent sucrose content.

"The continued importation of products with high amounts of sugar at very low tariff rates by a select group of importers will kill not only the local sugar industry but also local juice manufacturers who pay the proper duties to support the country," said Bantug.

In his privilege speech last week, Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentebella criticized the BOC for not collecting the correct amount of duty (on the powdered juice importation). It was, in the process defying the President's order, ignoring the law, and putting in jeopardy the livelihood of millions of Filipinos, Puentebella said.

Puentebella said that EO 295 was very specific that if imported powdered juices contained over 65-percent sugar and have other ingredients in addition to its flavor and color, the tariff to be applied should be 48 percent.

Aside from EO 295, the President had also issued Memorandum Order no. 134 which directed the Department of Finance and its attached agencies, particularly the Bureau of Customs and Bureau of Internal Revenue, to consult and coordinate with the SRA in resolving the appropriate classification of sugar products for certain purposes including the imposition of proper import duties and other taxes.

John Hay consortium vows to settle dues

CAMP John Hay Development Co. reiterated its commitment to settle its outstanding rental payments with the government.

In a statement, the company said the current impasse was caused by BCDA's refusal to discuss pending issues caused by a Supreme Court decision that took away the tax and duty free incentives granted to the John Hay Special Economic Zone.

"At the time the Supreme Court's Oct. 24, 2003 decision invalidating the JHSEZ tax and duty exemptions came out, CJHDevCo was current and in good standing as far as its rental payments were concerned," said CJHDevCo SVP for legal and corporate affairs Gina Alvarez.

In the same statement, Alvarez said CJHDevco had sought a written assurance from the BCDA that it would hold CJHDevco and its sub-locators, concessionaires, buyers and residents free and harmless from any adverse consequence of the Supreme Court resolution.

She said the company also sought a written continuing guarantee on its enjoyment of the tax and duty exemptions within the JHSEZ.

Alvarez said BCDA's unjustified refusal to grant the requests had prevented CJHDevCo from continuing with the rental payments.

In order to discuss and settle the issue of indemnification for all damages CJHDevCo and its sub-locators, concessionaires, buyers and residents would suffer as a result of the court decision, CJHDevco had called for the convening of the joint committee as provided in Article XV, Section 1 of the Lease Agreement with BCDA.

She said that this, too, was ignored by the BCDA.

"As in the past, we would like to discuss the impact of the Supreme Court decision. We are willing to negotiate and come up with a win-win formula but BCDA has set conditions even before coming to the negotiating table, Alvarez added.

Gov't urged to take over Camp John Hay

SEVERAL legislators recently called for a government takeover of Camp John Hay in Baguio City, following the continued refusal by the beleaguered Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco) to settle some P2.2 billion in rental arrears.

Sen. Alfredo Lim said a takeover "is the right move" in the wake of a deadlock between the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) and CJHDevco on how the arrears were to be settled.

Some P1.2 billion of the total debt of the CAP group was due and demandable, the BCDA said in a statement.

In a Senate hearing last week, Lim said: "...the legislature is breaking its head trying to raise new revenues, but here is P2.2 billion worth of money staring us in the face that we cannot even collect."

Lim told the BCDA to ensure that CJHDevco "does not get away with this [non-payment of the P2.2 billion arrears]."

The unpaid rental arrears arose from a 25-year lease contract for the development and operations of the Camp John Hay, which the CAP-led group bagged in 1996.

Earlier, Cavite Solon Crispin "Boying" Remulla (NP, 3rd District) warned BCDA against accepting a settlement proposal by the CJHDevco for a reduction of its rental arrears from P2.2 billion to only P192,000.

In a radio interview, Remulla said the government should not condone the arrears of the group in view of the financial crisis hitting the country. He added that if the government would establish such a precedent, "then banks should also condone the arrears of other defaulting companies."

The Cavite legislator noted that the government would lose more revenue if the BCDA would give in to CJHDevco's proposal.

The BCDA earlier said it was seriously considering the takeover option amid signs that the CJHDevco was not inclined to settle its arrears.

The BCDA said it had informed CJHDevco that the 30-day notice for the payment of the P1.2-billion portion of the total arrears had lapsed. The notice was served in March 30 this year, the BCDA said.

Lawyer Lyssa Pagano-Calde, spokesperson of BCDA subsidiary John Hay Management Corp., said the recent petition for arbitration filed by CJHDevco before the Philippine Dispute Resolution Center Inc., a private organization, "may be the final indication that it cannot settle the P 2.2 billion debt."

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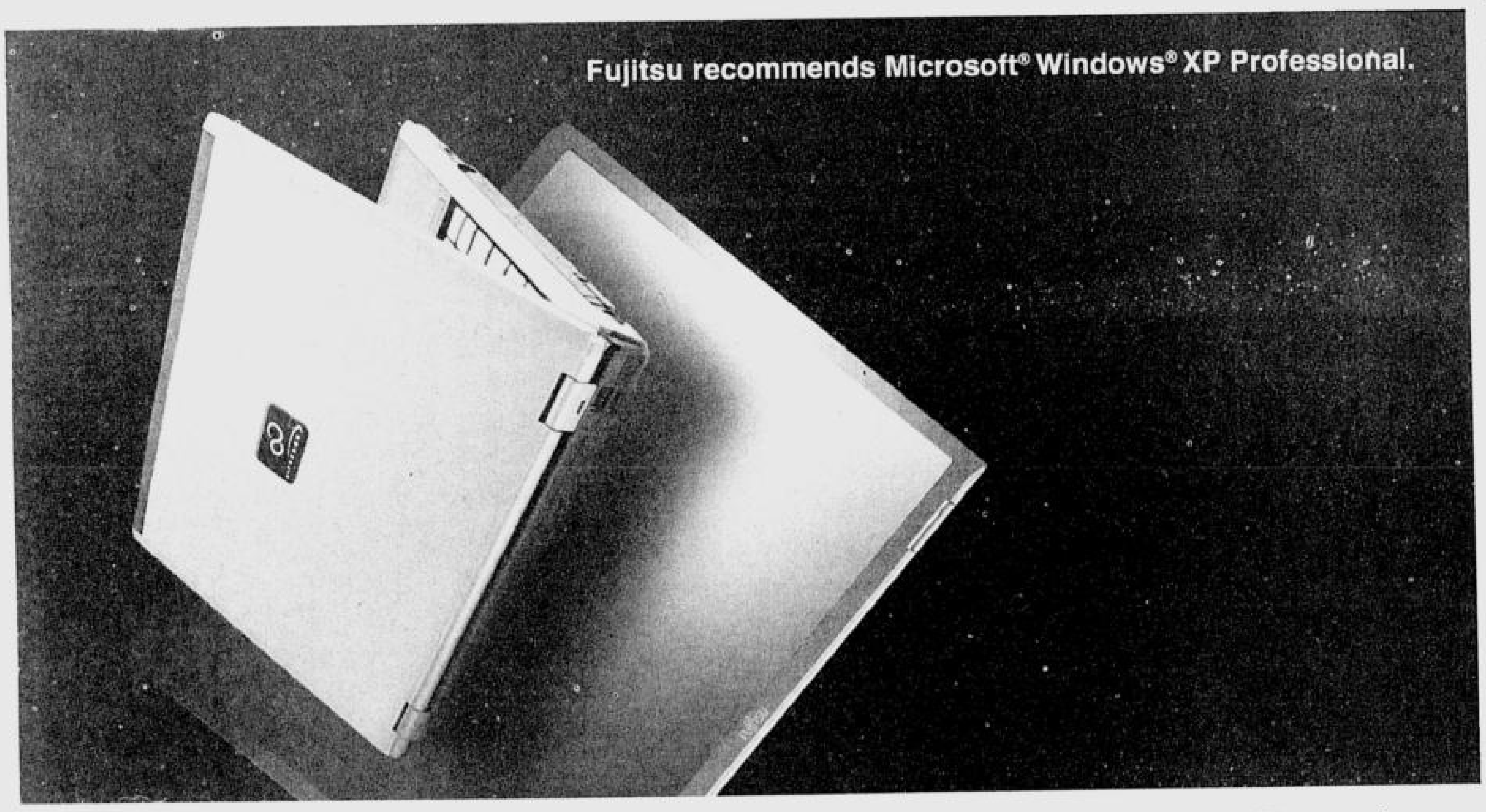

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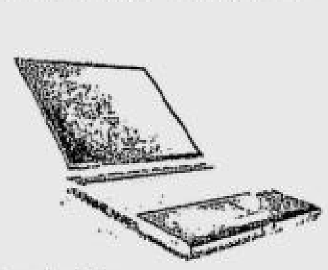

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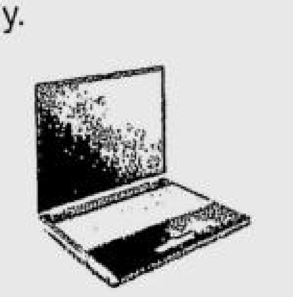

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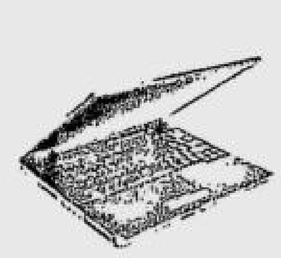

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DTI steps up campaign against substandard parts

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has stepped up efforts to rid the market of substandard auto parts, tires and batteries due to rising incidence of vehicular accidents.

Trade Secretary Juan B. Santos said substandard parts contributed to vehicular accidents similar to what happened recently to a Byron Bus Lines unit in Benguet, when it crashed into a roadside boulder killing at least 26 people.

Santos said the DTI was coordinating with other government agencies to monitor product standards and protect intellectual property rights.

He said the DTI's three bureaus of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection, Product Standards, and Import Services, were working closely with the Land Transportation Office and the Bureau of Customs to ensure road safety.

"The DTI will speed up the development of more automotive parts standards that would be applied to the industry, to ensure that components used in cars, trucks, and other vehicles are at par with the accepted safety standards in the international market," he said.

According to BPS Director Jesus L. Motoomull, the DTI has declared for mandatory product certification six auto parts, including tires, brake fluids, batteries, automotive glasses, seat belts and inner tubes for tires.

Motoomull added that the bureau was nearing completing of standards on brake, steering and lighting systems.

Further, the DTI's special monitoring assistance of the Regional Operations Group team (SMART)confiscated 479 pieces of uncertified tires from two stores in Mandaue and Cebu cities.

Motoomull said consumers cannot be certain on the quality and safety of the tires bearing the Altura, Apollo and Ke Shuai brands, since these do not bear the marks of the Philippine Standards and Import Commodity Clearance—which prove that these underwent and passed standard tests.

Also in Mandaue and Cebu, a total of 1,186 units of uncertified automotive batteries were seized from four stores.

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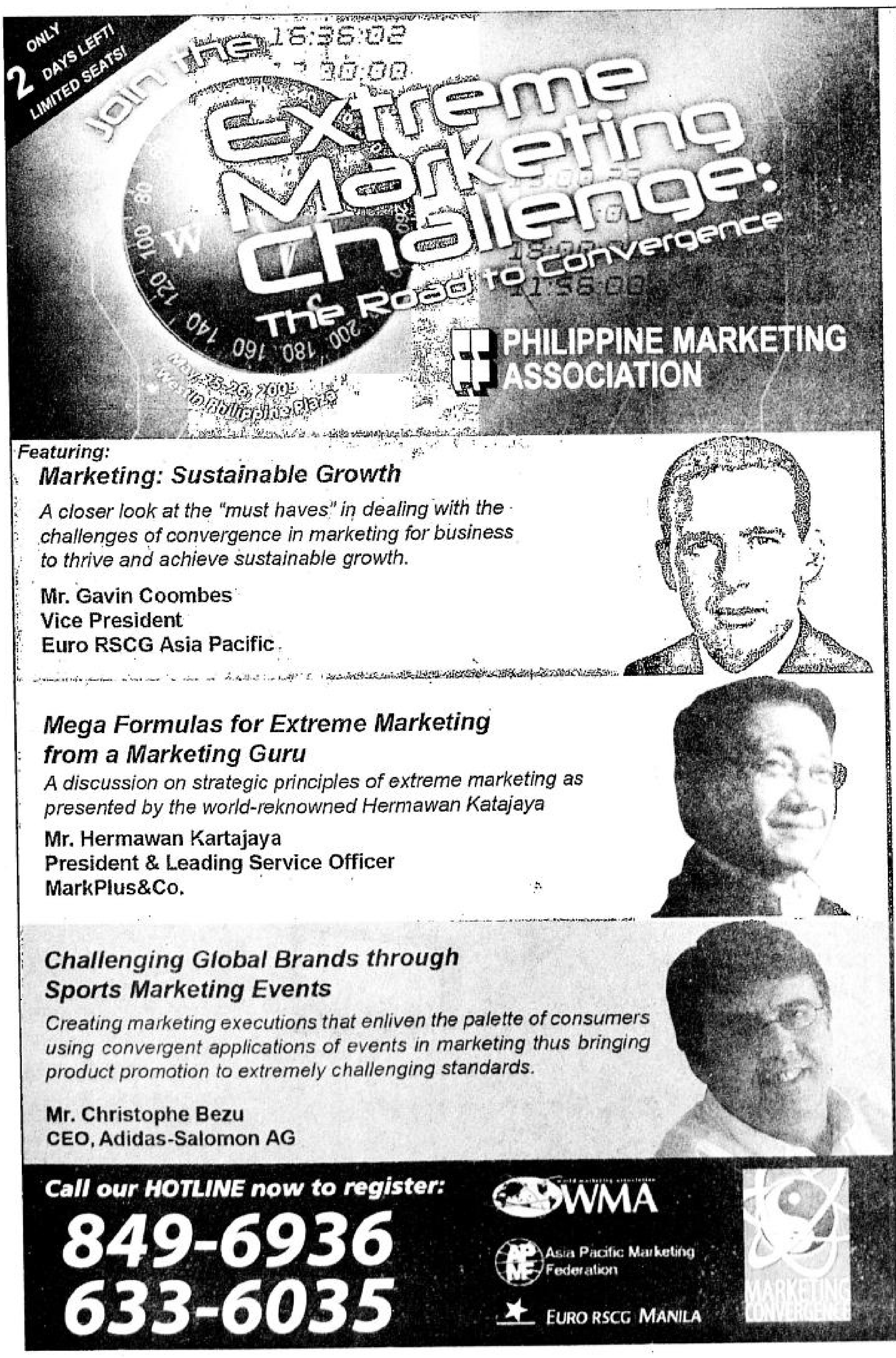
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Speaker: Mr. Joselito B. Ortega
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Session Nine:
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Head of Marketing, Araneta Group of Companies

Session Ten:
New Rules in Market Leadership: Success Stories in Non-traditional Bank Marketing

Speaker: Mr. Tomas Victor Mendoza
SAVP, Banco de Oro Universal Bank

Session Eleven:
Creativity on the Edge: Media & Marketing Convergence

Speaker: Mr. Nicanor C. Gabunada
Senior Vice President for Integrated Sales & Marketing, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Company

Closing Session:
The Road to Recovery through Market Convergence

Speaker: Mr. Jose Jesus F. Roces
Professor, Asian Institute of Management (AIM)
President, Asia Pacific Marketing Federation (APMF)

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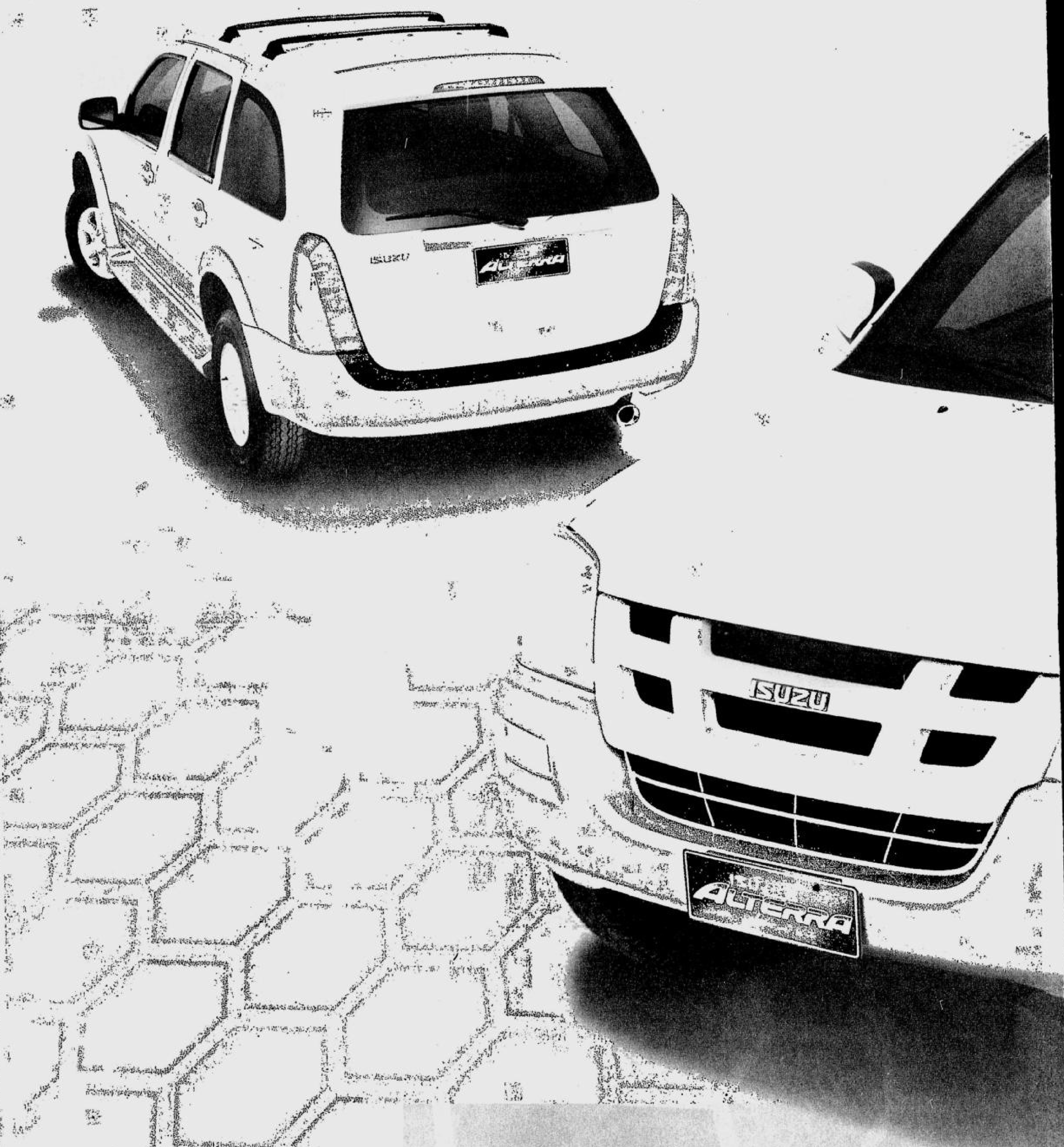

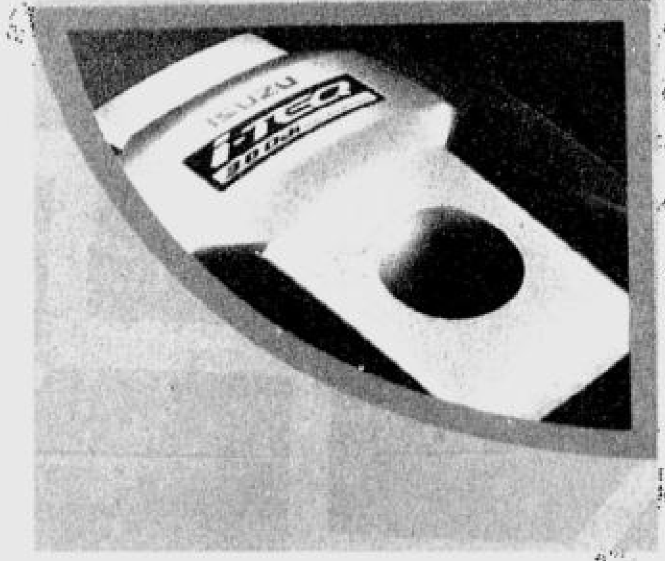

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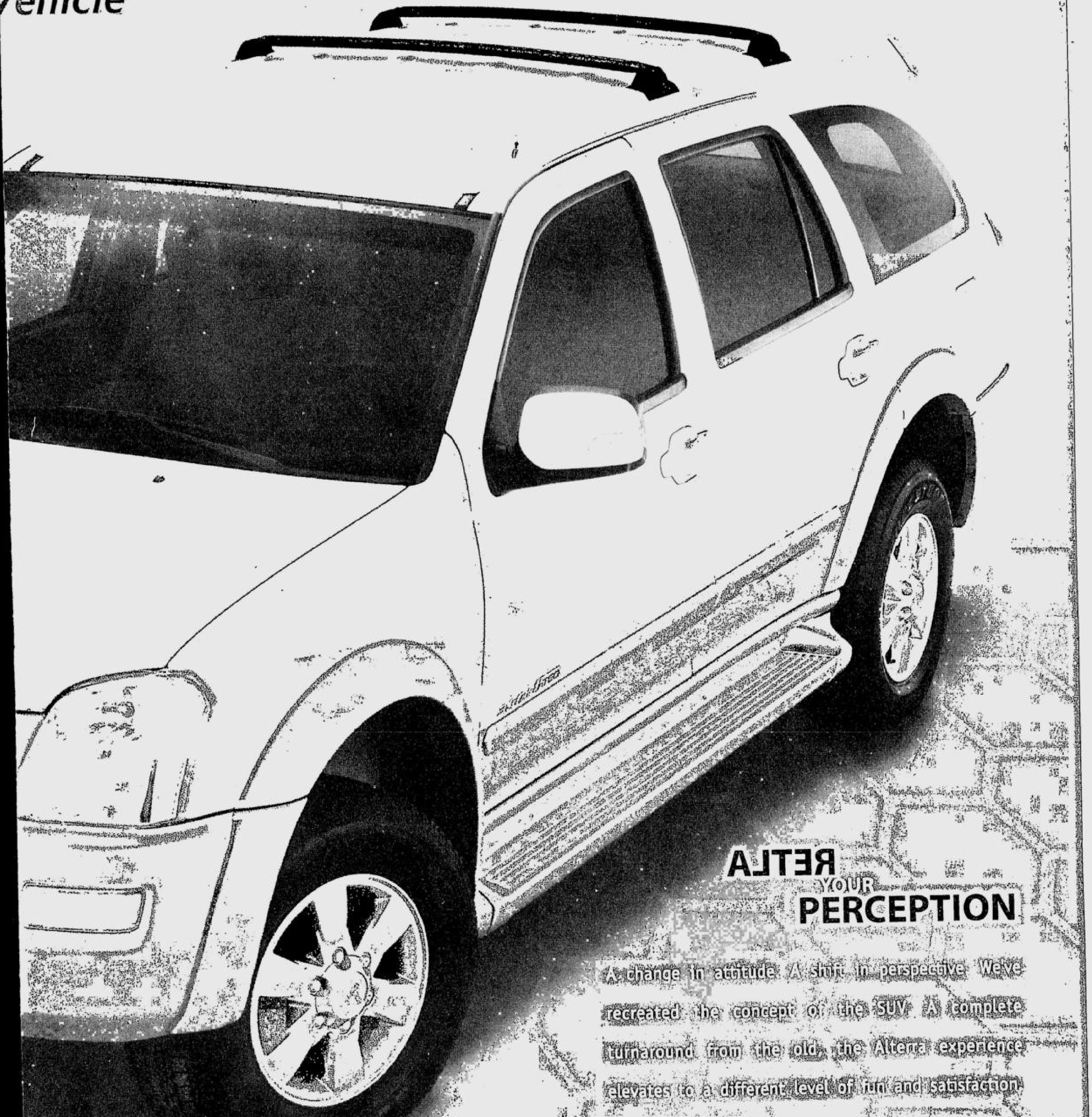

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Congress schedules hearings on cybercrime bills next week

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
Contributor

THE HOUSE of Representatives is scheduled to take up several cybercrime bills in public hearings this week.

The congressional committee on information and communications technology said there are at least four pending measures related to cybercrime to be discussed on May 25.

Rep. Simeon Kintanar, chair of the ICT committee, is the co-author of a pending cybercrime bill, House Bill 3777 titled "Cybercrime Act of 2005." Other lawmakers who have filed similar bills are Amado Espino Jr., Nanette Castelo Daza, Eric D. Singson and Harlin Castelo Abayon.

In 2003, the science and technology committee of the House of Representatives had approved "in principle" the consolidated version of a pending measure on cybercrime.

That consolidated version of separate bills scaled down the functions of a proposed "Presidential Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Council" (PCICC).

Kintanar's cybercrime bill version has renamed the PCICC "Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Council," with its own secretariat and executive director to be appointed by the President.

Such a council will be funded initially by the Office of the President but will next require Congress to appropriate funds for the council.

Bills filed in Congress since the early 1990s have proposed various anti-cybercrime measures. Kintanar's cybercrime bill now includes certain provisions of a controversial international treaty on cybercrime signed in Budapest last year.

Twenty-six members of the Council of Europe, including Japan, the US, Canada and South Africa signed the treaty, agreeing to put an end to activities such as online child pornography, fraud and hacking. The treaty also sets guidelines on how countries would police the Internet.

Forty-three member states of the Council of Europe—including the US, Japan and South Africa, drafted the Budapest cybercrime treaty and opened it to any country that wished to sign it. Civil rights groups and Internet service providers opposed the treaty, however, saying it imposed burdens on providers and failed to include enough public input.

Two years ago, the 15-member European Union also proposed its own separate treaty on cybercrime.

Meanwhile the Philippine cybercrime bill intends to complement the Electronic Commerce Act of 2000 (specifically section 33a and b), after proponents noted that the latter fails to address online crimes cited in the international cybercrime treaty.

According to the bill's proponents, among the crimes not included in the E-commerce law concern issues of privacy, online child pornography, and fraud. The bill defines cybercrime as using computers or the Internet to propagate a crime.

This solon loves his iPod, e-mail and Internet

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
Contributor

FORMER National Security adviser Roilo Golez loves his iPod, e-mail technology and the Internet.

Sharing his "A day in the life" during a recent Philippine Internet Commerce Society general meeting, Golez nonchalantly revealed his collection of gadgets like Apple's iPod and the 250-gigabyte Iomega external hard drive he carries around with his reverence for information technology.

"I have more than 7,000 songs in my iPOD. Some have come from my own collection, some from the Internet, and some from collections borrowed from friends," said Golez, representative at the 2nd district of Parañaque City.

Also a former boxing champ during his younger days, Golez starts his day at midnight, scanning news from different Philippine online news websites like INQ7.net and ABS-CBN.

"I usually spend an hour reading the local news. Then I move on to CNN for international news," he said, adding that he has made this a daily habit.

GOLEZ

In between reading the online news, Golez said he simultaneously reads his e-mail, subscriptions to newsgroups, and newsletters.

"Sometimes I do receive naughty e-mails. But I really do believe that the best way to communicate these days is through e-mail," he continued.

The next day at around five in the morning, the representative wakes up early to catch up on more news, this time from the local tabloids. He's on the road by 7 a.m.

While in his car, Golez said he would catch on his reading while listening to his favorite pre-war tunes from his iPod.

"I collect classical music, top tunes from the pre-war up to the 1950s," he said, admitting that he was an Elvis Presley fan.

Text messaging or sending short message service (SMS) is also another technological innovation he admires. With SMS, he said that he is readily accessible to his constituents. However, being easily accessible by a mobile phone has its disadvantages as well, Golez admitted.

"Every day I also get about 20 messages from a friend from the Rotary on the latest SMS jokes," he said. Apart from jokes, however, Golez said that he gets his daily breaking news via his mobile phone through SMS alerts courtesy of online news services, the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"SMS alerts are very useful I get to know the news way ahead of others," he said.

By the time the Congress starts its plenary session in the afternoon, he turns on his PC notebook and connects to a wireless local area network provided for by Congress.

A member of the Philippine Internet Commerce Society revealed that Golez was among the first representative to have responded via e-mail to their invitation to address them.

Rep. Roilo Golez currently maintains his own website at www.golez.com.

BSA hoping for sterner implementation of IPR laws

By Alexander Villafania
Contributor

PIRACY in the Philippines remains high at 71 percent of the total local sales of software in 2004, just a notch lower than the previous year, Ronald Chua, chair of the Business Software Alliance (BSA), noted in a press conference.

He urged the Philippine government to play a more vital role in the enforcement of I PR laws as well as exact stricter penalties against alleged violators.

Losses due to piracy last year are pegged at P3.7 billion, from P2.9 billion in 2003, attributed to the decreasing value of the Philippine peso against the US dollar.

The International Data Corporation estimates the size of the packaged software market in the Philippines at P5.8 billion.

But Chua commended the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) and the National Bureau of Investigation for some of their anti-piracy activities in recent months, particularly the new IPR programs of IPO Director General Adrian Cristobal. Cristobal has been very persistent in protecting not just the rights of foreign entities but also those of local talents.

"While we are disappointed that software piracy levels have yet to drop significantly in the Philippines, we are confident that with greater government involvement we will make headway against software piracy. We are optimistic that with close and continuous cooperation between the government and various industry groups, this goal will be achieved," Chua added.

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Fed's Greenspan says US oil stocks to keep growing

NEW YORK—A modest easing in oil demand in response to higher prices should keep inventories rising in the US and elsewhere for some months, Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan said on Friday.

Speaking to the Economic Club of New York, Greenspan pointed out that he had predicted in April when prices were spiking that he expected to see "an inventory buffer to damp the price frenzy." Since then, inventories have grown to the point where US crude oil stockpiles were near a six-year high, according to a government report issued this week.

"A somewhat lesser, but still important, accumulation of crude oil is evident in other major countries," Greenspan said.

"Inventory accumulation is likely to continue unless demand rises, output declines, or we run out of storage capacity."

Substantial portions of Greenspan's remarks mirrored a speech he delivered on April 5 to an oil refiners' group in Texas.

He noted on Friday that higher prices in recent months had slowed the growth of oil demand, "but only modestly."

Looking further ahead, he said the magnitude of energy consumption can have significant impact on how the US economy performs in coming years.

He added the increasing use of less gas-guzzling cars on US roads was of critical importance for increased fuel efficiency.

He said China and other emerging Asian countries were trying to become more efficient but they lag Western nations, and to some extent may offset conservation efforts elsewhere.

"China consumes roughly twice as much oil per dollar of GDP [gross domestic product] as the United States and if, as projected, its share of world oil consumption continues to increase, the average improvements in world oil-intensity will be less pronounced than the improvements in individual countries viewed separately would suggest," Greenspan said. *Reuters*

Wall St. awaits crucial US data

NEW YORK—Optimism returned to Wall Street last week, with solid economic data and falling oil prices giving the stock market its strongest week of 2005.

But it's far too early to be celebrating.

The skittishness and worries that plagued investors over the past six weeks are still there—pushed beneath the surface, but still there regardless.

And those worries are only a single piece of bad news away from resurfacing.

Two potentially market-moving takes on the economy are due out this week.

On Tuesday, the Federal Reserve releases the minutes of its May 3 meeting, and investors will look closely to see how the Fed governors feel about inflation and the strength of the economy.

The following day, the Commerce Department releases its estimate for the nation's gross domestic product for the second quarter.

The GDP, a measure of all the goods and services produced in the United States, was surprisingly sluggish in April's reading, and the 3.7 percent annualized growth expected this month could be too ambitious.

However, even if the markets drop on both reports, the gains of last week will be tough to erase in a handful of trading sessions.

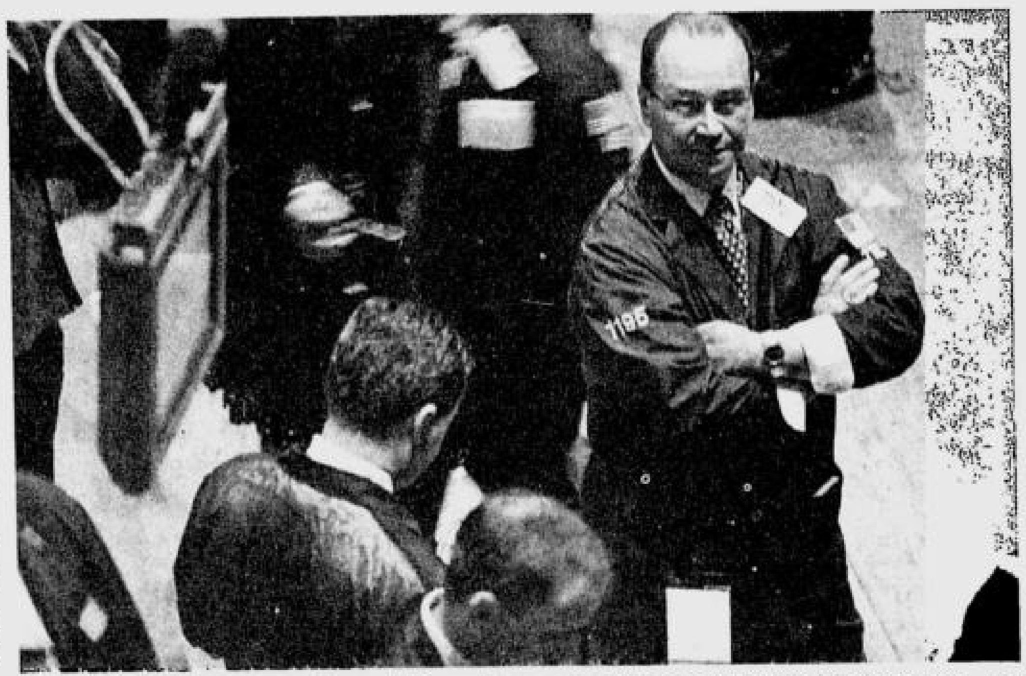
Fueled by positive economic data and sharply falling oil prices, stocks had a big week. The Dow Jones industrial average climbed 3.27 percent, the Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 3.05 and the Nasdaq composite index was up 3.52 percent.

The GDP release will be Thursday, before trading begins. In the first take on second-quarter GDP, issued in April, the US economy grew at an annualized rate of 3.1 percent, far less than the 3.5 percent Wall Street expected. This time, with strong earnings and falling oil prices, analysts anticipate much stronger growth.

On Wednesday, the Commerce Department will report on April's orders for durable goods—big-ticket items designed to last up to three years. Orders are expected to rise 1 percent after March's unexpectedly large drop of 2.3 percent.

Existing home sales data from the National Association of Realtors comes out Tuesday, with the Commerce Department reporting on new home sales Wednesday.

Home sales and new home construction have surged in the past two months—a sign that the Fed's interest rate policy hasn't caused a drop in mortgage lending—and investors will look to see if the trend continues. *AP*



NEWS on the US economy due out this week are cause for concern for Wall St. investors. AFP

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US Airways-America West deal offers hope, challenges

WASHINGTON—The merger of bankrupt US Airways and discount airline America West faces numerous challenges but could provide a model for the battered US aviation sector, analysts say.

Bringing together the carriers would mean incorporating the different corporate cultures and labor groups of a full-service with a low-cost carrier, say analysts.

The deal announced late Thursday, subject to approval by the US Bankruptcy Court overseeing US Airways' restructuring, would operate under the US Airways brand with the chief executive to be Doug Parker, currently chair and CEO of America West.

The deal creating the number-six US airline has strong financial backing and creates an airline with an estimated $10 billion in annual revenues and $2 billion in cash.

"What we will create with this merger is the nation's first full-service airline with a customer-friendly pricing structure of a low-fare carrier," said Parker.

Some analysts say the move is a big risk for America West.

"America West faces significant risks in acquiring a bankrupt airline twice its size and integrating the new employees with its own work force," said Standard and Poor's credit analyst Philip Baggaley in a research note.

Michael Rottblatt, partner at Korn/Ferry International's industrial consulting practice, said the companies have an opportunity to succeed.

"This comes down to courage of leadership to step out of the mold of legacy carrier to look at the business model fresh," he said.

Others say it may be difficult integrating the established labor force of US Airways into the America West mold.

"As with any merger, integration risk always presents a big challenge to management, and we believe the large gap in seniority between US Airways labor and America West labor will cause more difficulty," Goldman Sachs told clients.

CreditSights analyst Roger King wrote that America West management will have its hands full. "The race is now on to see if CEO Parker can clean up the US Airways mess before his cash runs out," they wrote.

Others noted that the deal is the last hope for the survival of US Airways, which is in its second round of reorganization under US bankruptcy laws.

"US Airways does not make strategic and economic sense as an airline. Their only hope for survival is to merge," said Vaughn Cordle, chief analyst at Airline Forecasts and a 777 pilot for United Airlines.

The new airline expects to save $600 million a year in costs, with $150 million to $200 million of that from shifting routes and tweaking the fleets of aircraft.

There will be 59 fewer planes in service, according to the companies. *AFP*

Unilever sells perfume unit

NEW YORK—Coty Inc., one of the world's top perfume and cologne makers, on Friday said it is buying Unilever PLC's fragrance business for $800 million (euro634.6 million), bulking up its portfolio with megabrand Calvin Klein and other lines such as Vera Wang and Chloe.

Privately held Coty, based in New York, wants to rank among the five largest beauty products companies worldwide and said adding Unilever's business, with sales of more than $600 million (now euro476 million) last year, will help it advance that goal.

Bernd Beetz, Coty's chief executive, told The Associated Press that he has been eyeing Unilever's portfolio for a while as a way to put the company on a "higher level."

"If you look at Unilever Cosmetics International's portfolio, you see the Calvin Klein megabrand—something we did not have," Beetz said. "We're really strengthening our capabilities in that market."

Still, Beetz said his company has been growing at a double-digit rate over the last four years, and took in more than $2 billion (euro1.59 billion) in sales in 2004, the same year Coty acquired rights to the Kenneth Cole and Marc Jacobs brands. Aside from perfumes including adidas, Stetson and Celine Dion, Coty also makes a range of bath and foot- and sun-care products.

Unilever's fragrance unit will become part of Coty's Lancaster Group Worldwide, which is looking to boost US sales, expand its European market and gain a bigger foothold in Asia, the company said.

With the acquisition, Coty's overall sales should reach $2.7 billion (euro2.14 billion) to $2.8 billion (euro2.22 billion) in 2005, according to Beetz.

The deal calls for additional payments to Unilever based on future sales, the company added.

In addition to the fragrance licenses, Coty is also acquiring a manufacturing and distribution center in Mt. Olive, New Jersey, and a distribution center in Lille, France.

Consumer products giant Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch maker of Ben & Jerry's ice cream, Lipton drinks and Dove soap, has been shifting resources toward the heart of its business, food and personal care. The company is a joint venture of Unilever NV and Unilever PLC.

"This is an excellent strategic move for Unilever and one that is fully in line with our strategy to focus on our core categories," Unilever chief executive Patrick Cescau said in a statement.

Earlier this month, Unilever said its first-quarter profit grew 24 percent as net sales inched higher on improved US business that offset weak demand in Europe. The company's 2004 earnings were down 31 percent on lower sales.

Coty said the deal is expected to close "in the coming months," pending regulatory approval and other closing procedures. *AP*

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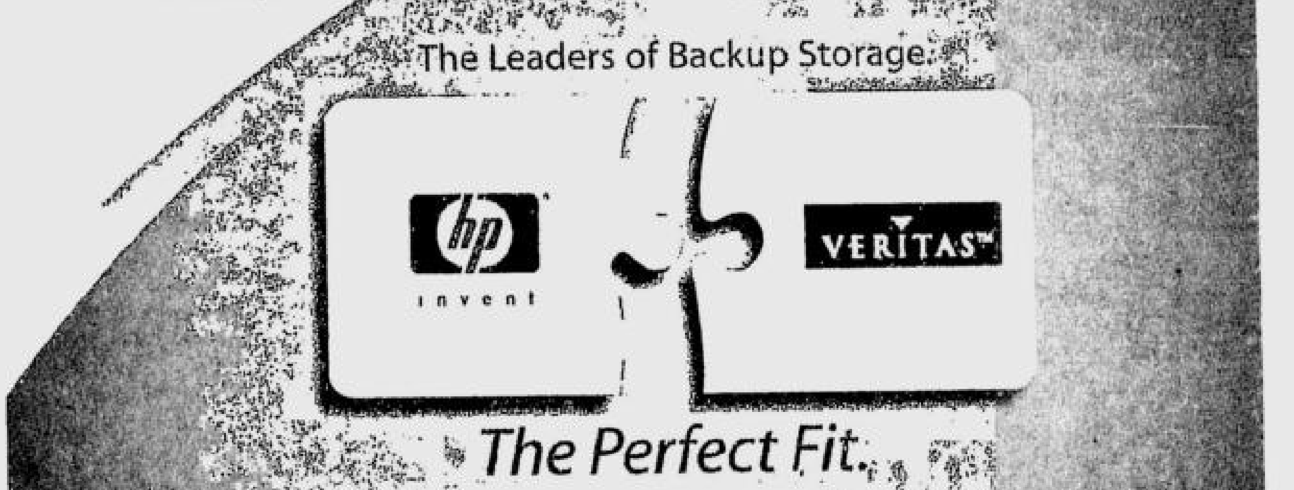
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Editor Aries Espinosa

Beauty & Fitness World set at WTC May 26

ALL IS set and ready for the staging of the Beauty and Fitness World 2005 expo at the World Trade Center Philippines from May 26 to 28. The country's only professional exhibit for the cosmetics, personal care, wellness and fitness industry is poised to showcase a wide array of products and innovations in this field-from complete hair and body care accessories to fragrances, beauty treatments, health food, raw ingredients, packaging and contract manufacturing.

Now on its second year, the 3-day beauty business showcase expects to attract not only industry practitioners but also retailers, beauty enthusiasts and entrepreneurs who can learn from experts through free seminars, lectures and onstage demonstrations.

Australia leads the roster of foreign exhibitors looking for distributors for its natural line of beauty and health products and services, including Body Treats, Marine Blue, Morlife Functional Foods, Naturopathica and Skin Doctors.

One of Indonesia's oldest and largest cosmetics firms, PT Fabindo, is also set to do a Philippine launch of its exclusive line of makeup and personal care line.

Soon to open a branch in Manila, Singapore's well-known Best Beauty Center will unveil its unique beauty services that include the Intense Pulse Light cure for skin imperfections.

Similarly, PriceAbuse of Kuala Lumpur, exporter of over 1,000 products at medium prices, debuts in Manila through Beauty & Fitness World 2005.

Other local and foreign companies will showcase their products and services for beauty and hairdressing salons, health spas, manufacturers, distributors, fitness gyms, cosmetologists and dermatology clinics, consumers and more.

Among the interesting free seminars are Forever Young by fitness guru Cory Quirino and Hair & Makeup Trends by FilHair for Day 1; Skin Care by Biofemme, Mix Your Own Aromatherapy Oils by Eunice, Life in a Can by Oxylife International, All-Papaya Care System by Silka, Bridging the Gap Between Surgery and Cosmetics by Cepherea, Carbo Tame Your Life and Breathe Thin by Arsi Baltazar, Massage Therapy, Aromatherapy & Scar Removal by Susie's Natural Body Essentials for Day 2; and Cologne Concoction by Eunice, Eating Healthy the South Beach Way by chef Florabelle Co, Formulating Foot Spa Products by Eunice, Hydradermie Beauty Treatment by Guinot Institut Paris, Pranic Healing, Hair Extensions by Bergmann Hair Systems, Face and Body Enhancement by Cosmetic Surgery Associates, and All of the Good, None of the Bad by Pharmanex/Nu Skin for Day 3.

Entrance to Beauty & Fitness World 2005 is free. Other details may be obtained from event organizer Worldexco (891-8638; e-mail mktg@worldexco.com).

INLAND, PIONEER TRUCK MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

Inland Corp, one of the country's top brokerage firms, is planning to implement a refurbishing program to modernize its fleet, enabling Inland to meet the growing demands of the domestic shipping and transport market. Tapped by Inland to oversee and supervise the refleeting program is Pioneer Trucks and Equipment, the country's biggest supplier of genuine international truck parts and spare parts of popular truck brands. Since Pioneer came in as Inland's parts supplier, trucking operations have been efficient and precise. 'We are happy to be partners with Pioneer. Its expertise in trucks maintenance and repair, plus its comprehensive inventory of parts is beneficial to our long-term goals,' states Arnold Cortez, operations manager of Inland Corp. 'You have to link up with the best to maintain your stature in the industry. Our service and maintenance partnership with Pioneer Trucks increased Inland's awareness to the flaws in our system and the root cause has been defined. Truck breakdown has dramatically decreased 14 to 9 in the past 6 months,' says Buddy Roa, president of Inland. Shown is Benedict Go handing over the keys to a restored truck to Arnold Cortez (left) of Inland. Pioneer Trucks is known for its extensive parts inventory and quality workmanship in restoration, overhauling and underchassis bodywork of major truck brands. Pioneer Trucks is at G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Call 713-1998 for inquiries.

Council on Women's Health launch set

THE PHILIPPINE Heart Association (PHA) 36th Annual Convention "Puso sa Puso Media Forum" will be the launching pad of the PHA Council on Women's Health, a brainchild of Dr. Esperanza Cabral, one of the country's top cardiologists and a past president of the PHA.

Hewed on the theme "Women Power vs CVD Menace", it is slated on May 25, 10 a.m., Isla 1 of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City.

The 4-day convention (up to May 28) will focus on "Confluence of Competencies for Progress in Cardiovascular Medicine."

Invited speakers are well-respected government officials and celebrities like Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit, Sen. Miriam Santiago and Boots Anson Roa.

The forum will tackle pressing issues on women's cardiovascular health and well-being amid the stark statistics of women battling heart disease in this millennium. The goal of the newly born Council is to jolt women that their hearts are not made of steel, so to speak; so they need sufficient tools to be able to take action to prevent cardiovascular disease, in effect, empowering them to be exponents of a healthy heart.

The regular 7-year-old "Puso sa Puso Media Forum" is an avenue for a lively and fruitful dialogue among heart experts and media specialists

Premier franchise show starts July 14

THE COUNTRY'S biggest and longest-running franchise show stages a comeback as the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA) unrolls the red carpet to welcome franchise enthusiasts to Franchise 2005, the Philippine International Conference and Expo (Pifce). To be held from July 14 to 17, this premier franchise event is a joint undertaking with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). For inquiries, call the PFA secretariat at 687-0366 to 67, or e-mail pfa@nwave.net.

A virtual one-stop shopping for franchising with a four-in-one event, Franchise 2005 consists of plenary sessions on July 14; educational/breakout sessions and business roundtable discussions for would-be franchisors and franchisees on July 15, both at the Westin Philippine Plaza; the biggest franchise expo on July 15 to 17 at the World Trade Center (WTC); and the Certificate on Franchise Executives (CFE) Program on July 12 and 13 at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM).

With this year's theme "Achieve Dreams and Beyond", PFA chair Samie Lim and president Alegria Bing Sibal-Limjoco announced that this year's premier event will even be better and bigger, with the invitation of both local and international experts to speak on various issues, latest updates and trends in franchising. The plenary session will include, among others, the following topics: "When Urban Markets Consolidate"; "Consumer Trends and Market Analysis": "How To Grow Your Franchise During Difficult Times"; and "International Growth in Franchising: Cultural, Legal and Trade Barriers."

At the one-stop shop expo at the World Trade, Limjoco disclosed that Franchise 2005 Expo will cover key elements of the industry such as food, retail, and service and other allied suppliers which will be featured in the following pavilions: a showcase of the Franchise Excellence Awards (FEA) winners; business opportunity section; and the Incubation Center for Micro Enterprises and Future Homegrown Franchises.

Unrivalled in quality and quantity, Franchise 2005 hopes to equal, if not surpass, last year's attendance, which registered the all-time-high 15,000 visitors at the expo. At the same time, it is estimated that Franchise 2004 generated over US$5.5 million worth of new business.

Co-presented by PLDT Business Solutions, this year's organizing committee is headed by Elizabeth Orbeta (Wendy's Philippines) and Vince Padilla (Padi's Point), chair and co-chair, respectively; Terry Yap (McDonald's) and Ricky Mercado (Red Ribbon), conference chair and co-chair respectively; Les Reyes (Reyes Haircutters) and Lin Deres (Goldilocks), expo chair and co-chair respectively; Joel Aguada (Informatics) and Eric Lim, program and speakers sub-committee; Virgilio Espeleta (Julie's Bakeshop) and Al Palatino (Shakey's), attendance promotions sub-committee; Joey Singian (Viva Video City) and Rosemarie Lee (Memory Magic), publicity and promotions; Tiffany del Rosario (Subway) and Ramon Balingit (Gloria Jean's Coffee), ways and means.

6th ICW commences today; Purisima is speaker

THE 6TH Non-life Insurance Consciousness Week (ICW) commences today, May 23, and will culminate on Friday, May 27. This year's theme focuses on "Ingatan ang Kabuhayan! Siguraduhin ang Kinabukasan."

The ICW is an annual event started in 1999 under Presidential Proclamation and Executive Order 143, declaring the fourth week of May as such. This year's ICW aims to augment public awareness on the non-life insurance industry by educating, informing, and convincing the public on the importance of non-life insurance products and services. It is time for the public to realize, as well, how this business called non-life insurance helps restore businesses and contributes to national development in terms of its investments and taxes.

Spearheaded by the Philippine Insurers Club (PIC), in partnership with the Philippine Insurers and Reinsurers Association (Pira), this year's ICW organizing committee derives its strength and stability from the leadership of Michael F. Rellosa and Herminia S. Jacinto, of PIC and Pira, respectively.

The kick-off ceremonies commences today, 7:30 a.m. at the Office of the Insurance Commission Compound, United Nations Avenue, Manila led by Insurance Commissioner Benjamin Santos. The event will be graced by Secretary of Financé Cesar Purisima as keynote speaker. For further inquiries, call Cita at 633-9107.

Rock with Ashanti May 26 at Araneta Coliseum

FROM working with the biggest hip-hop and R&B artists to creating her own hits, Ashanti now invades Manila to give Filipinos a taste of what it is to be hip-hop and R&B's hottest property.

Ashanti will perform hits from her three albums "Ashanti", "Chapter II" and "Concrete Rose" and as with her other concerts around the world, it promises to be one great production number complete with dancers, a full band and a DJ. A large video wall will be supporting the visual effects and videos of Ashanti's music videos, clips and live performances will be shown. For the backdrop, pyrotechnics, and other special equipment will be used to make the entire evening an unforgettable Ashanti experience.

The concert will be opened by all male vocal group The Akafellas, "SOP" host and singer April and multi-awarded singer and "SOP" host Kyla.

And now that Ashanti is officially coming to Manila, let's hear what our local celebrities, personalities, and industry movers have to say about the delicious R&B princess Ashanti coming over.

Kyla (singer): "Her music and style is unique. One of the best artists ever!"

H-Town (producer): "Certainly a brand name of its own, not only in the Hip-Hop and R&B scene but also in the whole showbiz industry. A show on its own. Totally hot!

Ella May Saison (singer): "She's versatile. She can sing, dance and act. Sexy and exceptionally beautiful!"

Christian Bautista (singer): "Ashanti is a well-rounded performer, she can sing, dance and act. It's great that she's visiting the country to share her talent."

Reggie Curley (actor): "She's sexy, tanned and fashionable. But her main appeal is in her voice. I like her hit song 'Always On Time' with Ja Rule."

Tony Toni (Magic 89.9): "Her sound is hypnotizing, her body is mesmerizing! You'd be 'Foolish' to miss the 1st lady of Murda Inc Records!"

Robbie Joseph (The Akafellas): "She's definitely a favorite and her music is awe-inspiring. She's oozing with talent, no wonder she became an overnight success and captured the hearts and ears (and eyes! She's fine!) of millions of people around the world. She's a rare rose and comes as a blessing to our humble country."

Paolo Cabalfin (model): "Ashanti is always the perfect partner in collaborations. I got her first album soon as it came out. It's great she's coming."

Dessa (singer): "Aside from being a talented singer, I love the fact that she gives back a lot to her mom. To the extent that she made her mom her manager. Giving her a 60K Benz and a pendant full of diamonds that says the word manager."

Luke Mejares (singer): "Ashanti is such a talented sexy lady! Aside from being a great performer, she makes and performs music so good it makes you want to stand up and groove!"

Sam Oh (host, ETC): "The voice of an angel trapped in a wicked booty!"

Leah H. Basco (Manila Bulletin): "One of the sexiest and most talented performers of our time. Her seductive moves and well endowed voice make her stand out."

Kim Fabros (7 Shots of Wisdom): "Ashanti is a good role model for those who want to get into the music business. She's worked hard to get to where she is and that is what makes her a true artist."

April Villanueva (singer/host): "Ashanti is definitely one of the 'it' girls of today. From her stylish clothes, angelic voice, hot music tracks, and sexy dance moves, this girl has got it all!"

ASHANTI performs hits from her 3 albums

Reuben Laurente (The Company): "I love Ashanti's total package. She's visually and aurally pleasing."

Amy Perez (actress, TV host): "Soulful"

Moy Ortiz (composer, The Company): "Ashanti is hip-hop R&B's princess who is comfortable with old school and today's new forms of R&B. Not to mention a dazzling performer on stage."

Francis Magalona (rap artist, host): "Ashanti is an inspiration to millions of young women all over the world. My daughters like her music."

Banjo Albano (Steak Productions): "It's great to have a star R&B singer like the beautiful Ashanti come here to Manila. I hope she inspires the vocal scene to step their game up 'coz we have a lot of talent here capable of doing big things. Hope her show goes well."

Joaquin Valdes (singer): "Ashanti puts the B in R&B. Beauty, booty, and ooh baby! That's why R&B looks so good!"

So, make sure to watch out for the concert as not only will it be a night of great music, but also of hot dancing and outstanding production and staging sure to leave everyone hot.

THE AKAFELLAS says Ashanti oozes with talent

KYLA: 'Her music, style is unique'

APRIL Villanueva: 'One of the 'it' girls of today.'

"Ashanti: Live in Manila", May 26, 8 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum, is presented by Tommy Hilfiger watches and MTV in cooperation with PLDT My Music, PLDT Vibe, Information Gateway and Nescafe Classic in part with Skechers, No Curfew watch stores, Multramin Energy Booster Vitamin, ETC, GMA-7, Dream Satellite TV, official residence Discovery Suites together with MCA Universal Records, Tower Records, Flavastreet Entertainment, Empire Entertainment, Mazda and media partners "Eat Bulaga", Fudge Magazine, 99,5RT, 97.9 Home Radio, RX 93.1, Joey 92.3, Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3 Crossover 105.1, Dream FM 106.7, Power 108 and Blazin'105.9FM.

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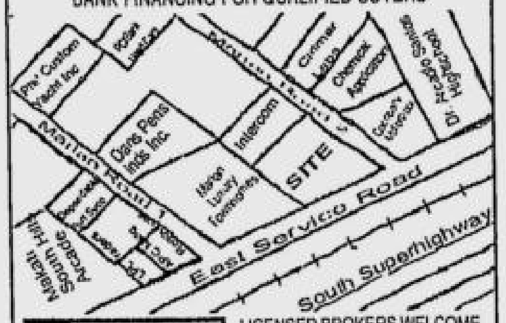

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID (PUBLIC BIDDING)

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) wishes to invite bidders for the **NETWORK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.**

Request for Proposal (RFP) can be obtained from May 19 to June 1, 2005, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees (OSBAC) Room 1804, 18th Floor Citystate Centre #709 Shaw Blvd. Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 2,000.00.

The Government of the Philippines through the **PhilHealth** had provided funds for this project for which this invitation is issued. The approved budget for this contract is Php 4,000,000.00.

A pre-bid conference will be held on June 2, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. at the OSBAC (Rm. 1804).

The bidders shall prepare their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes and drop these in the respective bid boxes located at the above-mentioned address.

Submission of bids will be on June 23, 2005 on or before 12:00 noon at the OSBAC. Opening of bids will follow at 1:30 p.m. at the same venue. Any bidder who comes late will not be entertained. The official time clock shall be the wall clock located at Room 1804 (OSBAC). Any bid submitted after the cut-off time will not be accepted.

The BAC-ITR shall determine if each prospective bidder is eligible to participate in the bidding by examining the completeness of each prospective bidder's eligibility requirements or statements against a checklist of requirements, using the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria.

The Bid Security shall be in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the approved budget for the contract in the following forms:

Forms of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid	Amount of Bid Security
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Foreign Government Guarantee	One hundred percent (100%)	Php 4,000,000.00

We look forward to your participation in this worthwhile endeavor.

PhilHealth reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PhilHealth further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) MELINDA C. MERCADO, CESO IV
SVP, Health Insurance Operations Sector and
Chairperson, BAC-ITR

(PDI - May 16 & 23, 2005)

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

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ABC RENT A CAR
HI-ACE • STAREX
L300 • URVAN • REVO ETC
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Q.C.: 426-2278 • 426-4084

CAR LOAN

1.5% Auto Express 5221001-02

1.5% Car Loan 5344441

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/out taking car 5315577

2% w/out taking car 6567685

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

OTHER EQUIPMENT

DENTAL UNIT 20T 631-9272

OVEN GAS 6 PLANCHAS & 500 GAL G.I. WATER TANK 09208713449

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

BEAGLE 6MOS 09106761055

DOG TRAINER 0919-3419012

Dog Trainer 0919-2050952

ROTTWEILER PUPS Champ/US 09178372007 / 0917-8898239

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LOW 5% INTEREST
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7220433 • 4123543

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of PEDRO M. MALE SR who died on July 23, 1993 has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs before Notary Public Orlando O. Alles of Quezon City as per Doc. No. 213; Page No. 44; Book no. 09; Series of 2005
(PDI - May 9,16 & 23, 2005)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Buss w/Travel 0916-9368917

P/TIME • SIDELINE? up to P20K/mo 3762642

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

L88EDC has TRANSFORMED & CHANGED the lives of many professionals into GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURS. www.L88edc.com

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RTW Consign 09167940002

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Draftsman/Arch AutoCad 998-5034/947-7514 Toto gemvircsslab@yahoo.com

MKTG. OFFICER M 9151390-94

WAITER 0920-9064273

FEMALE

10 ENGLISH TEACHERS
P/T 1-2yrs call ctr/phone English Ctr Exp. w/ american accent 100/hr Apply at CRM III Bldg. Rm 301,106 Kamias Rd. QC 4330961 CJ Call n Talk Inc. Interview May 18,20,24 & 26 ,2005

ACCOUNTANT-COMPUTER LITERATE 631-5619/20

DATA ENCODER W/2 YRS EXP IN ACCTG & CLERICAL WORK. COLLEGE GRAD. 631-5619/20 LOOK 4 JANE

PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS Fresh Grad. B.S. PSYCH / EDUC. Apply @ 10 J. Ocampo St. Project 4, QC Mon-Fri. Only 9-12NN Tel 421-2595

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Any Allied Health Grads up to P45T/ Mo! 8927828

CAREGIVER 5280722

JR. ARCHITECT/CADD OPTR SAN JUAN • 744-0648

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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COMPUTER GRAPHIC ARTIST ADOBE COREL SECRETARY COMP LIT W/EXP 257-0679 / 2543100

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5 Month Contract Web
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1. Narrow Web Printing Operator for Letter Press/ Flexo
2. Computer Graphic Operator, Macintosh user
3. Electrician
4. Driver Mechanic
5. Cylinder Diecut Operator

Send resume at:
P.O. Box M-026
Mandaluyong Central
Post Office
1550 Mandaluyong City
or inquire at
Tel. No. 534-9445

POEA
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144
722-1155

LPG VESSEL FOR SALE

"as is where is"

GRT/NRT	230/123 TONS
DWT	296 TONS
LOA	125 FT
BREADTH	28 FT
DRAFT	6FT
ENGINE	2 x CAT Diesel Engine B343
GENERATOR	PERKINS 75KVA

For inquiries call: 8452520
09174569293 Attn: LEO

URGENT REQUIREMENTS FOR I.T. PROFESSIONALS FOR NEW OPERATIONS

Microsoft Business Solution Consultants (Great Plains 8.0) - (Code: - MBS-I)

Financial graduate with 5-7 years of business experience in Microsoft Great Plains and retails solution. Experienced in consultancy, design & implementation practice of Microsoft Great Plains 8.0. The ideal candidate must be a certified Great Plains implementer & developer on version 8.0 with minimum 2 years experience as business analyst. A sound understanding of the financials and business along with project management principles and practices will be an advantage..

Microsoft Infrastructure Consultants – (Code: - MIC-I)

Computer science graduate with 5 to 7 years in I.T. services & minimum 3 years experience in design and implementation practice on Microsoft Windows, Exchange 2000/ 2003 architecture is a must. Experience on Microsoft Operations Manager (MOM) & Systems Management Server 2003 (SMS) is preferred with the ability to analyze systems management needs in the context of the business and develop strategies and technical architectures based on Microsoft Systems Management solutions. Knowledge on Mobile Information Server (MIS) and mobile technologies will be advantageous.

Microsoft Info solutions Consultants – (Code: - MIC-II)

Computer science graduate with 5 to 7 years in IT services & minimum of 3 years experience in design and implementation practice on Microsoft Share Point Portal Server 2003 (SPS) & integration to Microsoft AD architectures & understanding of disaster recovery procedures. The candidate must have experience in design and deployment on Microsoft Content Management Server (CMS) using the Microsoft .NET Framework Architecture, principles and components.

Vertias Consultants – (Code: - VC-I)

Computer science graduate with 5 to 7 years in IT services & minimum of 3 years experience in design, deployment and support level knowledge of Veritas Backup Exec, NetBackup and Veritas Cluster Solutions. An in-depth understanding of high availability and disaster recovery procedure is a must. The candidate must have Technical Pre Sales skills and certification of Verities and Storage hardware.

Microsoft Certified Trainer – (Code: - MCT-I)

Computer science graduate with 4-5 years in Microsoft training services & working as MCT with specialization on Windows 2003, Exchange 2003, Share Point Portal and MS SMS & MOM Servers

The general requirements applicable for the above positions must possess consulting, technical writing capability, project management, strong analytical capability and strong business acumen combined with a broad understanding of technology and how they integrate. The candidate must be certified MCSE/MCSA/MCDBA/VCP with the ability to provide professional services & account management skills are a must.

The positions offer an attractive remuneration, and other fringe benefits which commensurate with qualifications and experience .To apply, please e-mail and post your detailed resume along with a current passport size photograph detailing as to how the above criteria is being met within 10 days of the adverstiment and clearly mentioning the code and position applied for to the following address:

The Vice President
Email:- world@batelco.com.ph
Website: www.cwbah.com

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Surigao del Sur
Municipality of Cantilan

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Municipal Government of Cantilan, Surigao del Sur, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract project	: Construction of Sipangpang Mini Hydroelectric with installed capacity of 750 kW
Location	: Barangay Cabangahan, Cantilan, Surigao del Sur
Brief description of the work temporary	: a. Construction of temporary river diversion, facilities and access road; b. Construction of Dam, gluiceway and intake structures with platform c. Construction of Surgetank/surgeshaft (optional) and Steel Penstock and water way structure; d. Construction of a powerhouse /tailrace e. Lifting Mechanism at the Dam f. Electrical fixture for the powerhouse and lighting.
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	: Sixty Five Million Pesos (Php 65,000,000.00)
Funding source	: Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP)

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Screening as well as the Preliminary examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR)

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from propsective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	May 20-30, 2005
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Upon receipt of the above
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	June 1-20, 2005

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the Office of the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee, this LGU, upon submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI) and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,000.00 to the Municipal Treasurer. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding documents after notice to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) to the Municipal Treasurer of this LGU.

The LGU of Cantilan assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) VICENTE A. MIRANDA
Municipal Budget Officer
BAC Chairman

(PDI - May 16 & 23, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Sorsogon State College
Sorsogon, Sorsogon
Tel. (056) 211-18-69 Fax (056) 211-18-45

THE SORSOGON STATE COLLEGE (SSC) GOVERNING BOARD

announces the opening of the

SEARCH FOR THE SORSOGON STATE COLLEGE (SSC) PRESIDENT

Minimum Qualifications:

1. Filipino Citizen
2. A holder of an EARNED doctoral degree in any related academic field;
3. Must have five (5) years managerial and administrative experience;
4. Recognized leadership in his/her profession;
5. Morally upright and never been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude;
6. Preferably not more than sixty (60) years old at the time of the application.

In addition to the above qualifications, applicants must submit the following documentary requirements in six (6) copies:

- a. Letter of intention/application
- b. Detailed curricular vitaé and certified supporting documents;
- c. Proposed Vision, Mission and Thrust for the College;
- d. Clearances from the Police, NBI, Ombudsman, Sandiganbayan and Civil Service Commission;
- e. Full disclosure of all administrative, criminal and/or civil cases filed;
- f. Result of Neuro-Psychiatric Examination to be accomplished by any government physician on an accredited health institution;
- g. Health certificate from any government physician.

Interested applicants are requested to submit the requirements not later than June 23, 2005 to:

DR. CRISTINA DAMASCO PADOLINA
Commissioner, CHED and
Chairperson, Sorsogon State College Governing Board
5/F DAP Bldg., San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. (02) 638-4870

Hiring competent & hard working people for the following positions preferably with working experience

1. ***HR Personnel Manager***
2. ***Mechanical Engineer***
3. ***Accounting Clerk***
4. ***Executive Secretary***
5. ***Brand Managers***

Please apply directly on any of the following date-

May 28, 2005 (Saturday) 9:00 AM / June 04, 2005 (Saturday) 9:00 AM

At this address..

130 4th St. bet. 10th & 11th Avenue
Grace Park, Caloocan City

Looking forward to meeting you soon.

Rice supply in Benguet assured

THE NATIONAL Food Authority office here assured sufficient rice supply in Benguet province for the lean months with the arrival of at least 280,000 bags of imported rice from Vietnam to augment the local rice supply recorded at 148,310 bags. Beginning July to September, the NFA will intensify its distribution program through existing accredited retail outlets such as Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke (BGP) inside public markets and through Tindahan ni Pangulong Gloria Rolling Stores (TPG-RS), according to provincial manager Rolando S. Rufo. Meanwhile, NFA Baguio has deployed market monitoring teams to check the availability and price of rice in the market. A stern warning has likewise been issued by the NFA against erring rice businessmen found violating the rules and regulations of rice retailing. "Violators will face penalties including cancellation of their permits to operate," Rufo said. NFA regular-milled rice (RMR) is being sold at P16 per kilogram while well-milled (WMR) rice is at P18 per kilogram. For more information on NFA programs, please send inquiries via Text NFA through mobile number 0917-6210927. For information on programs of the department of Agriculture, please visit the DA's official website at www.da.gov.ph.

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PNOC
The Energy Company

Energy Center Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio Taguig, Metro Manila
Philippines MCPO Box 2102 Tel. No. 893-6001/1320

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

2005-2007 WELL CEMENTING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR PNOC-EDC DRILLING PROJECTS
EDC05-077

The Approved Budget is $3,001,320.00 chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 730 calendar days.

Application Forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o F.T. Tolibas) starting May 23, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: One Thousand (P1,000.00)

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on May 31, 2005, 2:00 P.M. at the Pre-Bid Conference Room, 1st Flr., Bldg. 5, PNOC-EDC, PNPC Complex, Merritt Rd., Taguig, Metro Manila.

Applications for Eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group at PNOC-EDC, 1st floor Bldg. 5, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, not later than 2:00 p.m. on June 13, 2005 and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to abort the bidding process, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

BAC CHAIRMAN

(PDI–May 23, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Cebu Maritime Regional Office
Ground Floor CCCI Center, cor 11th & 13th Avenues
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

Case No. CMRO 05-059

RE Application for grant of certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a liner service in the operation of its ship/s in its/their applied route for the carriage of passengers and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act no. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations

GEORGE & PETER LINES, INC.,
Applicant
x------------------------------------x

O R D E R

This refers to the Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate the following ships/s in its/their route/s, under the following sailing frequency/ies, schedule of trips and rates:

1. For Liner Operation

Name of Ship/s	Service/s offered/to be offered
MV GP FERRY – 1	Carriage of Passengers, Cargoes and Rolling cargoes
MV ZAMBOANGA FERRY	Carriage of Passengers, Cargoes and Rolling cargoes
MV GEORICH	Carriage of Passengers, Cargoes and Rolling cargoes

Route/s to be served

Cebu-Dapitan-Dumaguete-Cebu-Dumaguete-Dapitan-Dumaguete-Cebu-Dumaguete-Dapitan-Dumaguete-Cebu; Cebu-Dumaguete-Dapitan-Zamboanga-Dumaguete-Cebu-Dumaguete-Dapitan-Dumaguete-Cebu-Dumaguete-Dapitan-Dumaguete-Cebu; Dumaguete-Dapitan-Dumaguete-Cebu-Dumaguete-Dapitan-Dumaguete-Cebu; Dumaguete-Dapitan-Dumaguete-Cebu-Dumaguete-Dapitan-Dumaguete-Cebu-Lazi-Iligan-Lazi-Cebu-Dumaguete

Sailing Frequency(ies)/Schedule

DEPARTURE			ARRIVAL		
Port	Day	Time	Port	Day	Time
Cebu	Mon	10:00 PM	Dapitan	Tue	6:00 AM
Dapitan	Tue	4:00 PM	Dumaguete	Tue	8:00 PM
Dumaguete	Tue	11:00 PM	Cebu	Wed	5:00 AM
Cebu	Wed	10:00 PM	Dumaguete	Thu	4:00 AM
Dumaguete	Thu	7:00 AM	Dapitan	Thu	10:00 AM
Dapitan	Thu	4:00 PM	Dumaguete	Thu	8:00 PM
Dumaguete	Thu	11:00 PM	Cebu	Fri	5:00 AM
Cebu	Fri	10:00 PM	Dumaguete	Sat	4:00 AM
Dumaguete	Sat	7:00 AM	Dapitan	Sat	10:00 AM
Dapitan	Sat	4:00 PM	Dumaguete	Sat	8:00 PM
Dumaguete	Sat	11:00 PM	Cebu	Sun	5:00 AM
Cebu	Mon	10:00 PM	Dumaguete	Tue	5:00 AM
Dumaguete	Tue	7:00 AM	Dapitan	Tue	11:00 AM
Dapitan	Tue	12:00 NN	Zamboanga	Wed	2:00 AM
Zamboanga	Wed	3:00 PM	Dumaguete	Thu	9:00 AM
Dumaguete	Thu	10:00 AM	Cebu	Thu	4:00 PM
Cebu	Thu	10:00 PM	Dumaguete	Fri	5:00 AM
Dumaguete	Fri	7:00 AM	Dapitan	Fri	10:00 AM
Dapitan	Fri	4:00 PM	Dumaguete	Fri	7:00 PM
Dumaguete	Fri	11:00 PM	Cebu	Sat	5:00 AM
Cebu	Sat	10:00 PM	Dumaguete	Sun	5:00 AM
Dumaguete	Sun	7:00 AM	Dapitan	Sun	10:00 AM
Dapitan	Sun	4:00 PM	Dumaguete	Sun	7:00 PM
Dumaguete	Sun	11:00 PM	Cebu	Mon	5:00 AM
Dumaguete	Mon	7:00 AM	Dapitan	Mon	10:00 AM
Dapitan	Mon	4:00 PM	Dumaguete	Mon	8:00 PM
Dumaguete	Mon	11:00 PM	Cebu	Tue	5:00 AM
Cebu	Tue	10:00 PM	Dumaguete	Wed	4:00 AM
Dumaguete	Wed	7:00 AM	Dapitan	Wed	10:00 AM
Dapitan	Wed	4:00 PM	Dumaguete	Wed	7:00 PM
Dumaguete	Wed	11:00 PM	Cebu	Thu	5:00 AM
Cebu	Fri	7:00 PM	Iligan	Sat	6:00 AM
Iligan	Sat	7:00 PM	Lazi	Sat	12:00 NN
Lazi	Sat	1:00 PM	Iligan	Sat	6:00 AM
Iligan	Sat	7:00 PM	Cebu	Sun	6:00 AM
Cebu	Sun	10:00 PM	Dumaguete	Mon	4:00 AM

Schedule of Rates (Per Link)

Passage Rates

LINKS		Type of Accommodation/Class	Rate
From	To		
Cebu	Dumaguete	Cabin	P 795.00
Dumaguete	Cebu	White Room	P 750.00
		Yellow Room	P 305.00
		Blue Room	P 305.00
		Green Room	P 305.00
		Bridge Deck	P 305.00
		Upper Deck	P 305.00
Cebu	Dapitan	Cabin	P 935.00
Dapitan	Cebu	White Room	P 750.00
		Yellow Room	P 465.00
		Blue Room	P 465.00
		Green Room	P 465.00
		Bridge Deck	P 465.00
		Upper Deck	P 465.00
Cebu	Zamboanga	Cabin	P 1,860.00
Zamboanga	Cebu	White Room	P 1,370.00
		Yellow Room	P 900.00
		Blue Room	P 900.00
		Green Room	P 900.00
		Bridge Deck	P 900.00
		Upper Deck	P 900.00
Cebu	Lazi	White Room	P 610.00
Lazi	Cebu	Yellow Room	P 305.00
		Blue Room	P 305.00
		Green Room	P 305.00
		Bridge Deck	P 305.00
		Upper Deck	P 305.00
Cebu	Iligan	White Room	P 610.00
Iligan	Cebu	Yellow Room	P 500.00
		Blue Room	P 500.00
		Green Room	P 500.00
		Bridge Deck	P 500.00
		Upper Deck	P 500.00
Dumaguete	Zamboanga	Cabin	P 1,370.00
Zamboanga	Dumaguete	White Room	P 1,005.00
		Yellow Room	P 680.00
		Blue Room	P 680.00
		Green Room	P 680.00
		Bridge Deck	P 680.00
		Upper Deck	P 680.00
Dumaguete	Dapitan	Cabin	P 526.00
Dapitan	Dumaguete	White Room	P 360.00
		Yellow Room	P 195.00
		Blue Room	P 195.00
		Green Room	P 195.00
		Bridge Deck	P 195.00
		Upper Deck	P 195.00
Dapitan	Zamboanga	Cabin	P 1,210.00
Zamboanga	Dapitan	White Room	P 920.00
		Yellow Room	P 590.00
		Blue Room	P 590.00
		Green Room	P 590.00
		Bridge Deck	P 590.00
		Upper Deck	P 590.00
Lazi	Iligan	White Room	P 610.00
Iligan	Lazi	Yellow Room	P 305.00
		Blue Room	P 305.00
		Green Room	P 305.00
		Bridge Deck	P 305.00
		Upper Deck	P 305.00

Cargo Rates

LINKS		Class A	Class B	Class C
From	To			
Cebu	Dumaguete	432.23	345.83	281.14
Dumaguete	Cebu	432.23	345.83	281.14
Cebu	Dapitan	496.32	397.08	322.86
Dapitan	Cebu	496.32	397.08	322.86
Cebu	Zamboanga	735.24	588.03	478.56
Zamboanga	Cebu	735.24	588.03	478.56
Cebu	Lazi	432.23	345.83	281.14
Lazi	Cebu	432.23	345.83	281.14
Cebu	Iligan	518.14	414.41	347.18
Iligan	Cebu	518.14	414.41	347.18
Dapitan	Dumaguete	350.39	280.40	227.87
Dumaguete	Dapitan	350.39	280.40	227.87
Dapitan	Zamboanga	543.83	434.94	353.92
Zamboanga	Dapitan	543.83	434.94	353.92
Dumaguete	Zamboanga	596.40	479.59	390.26
Zamboanga	Dumaguete	596.40	479.59	390.26
Iligan	Lazi	432.23	345.83	281.14
Lazi	Iligan	432.23	345.83	281.14

RORO Rates

LINKS		Type of Vehicle	Lane Meter	Rate / unit
From	To			
Dumaguete	Dapitan	All types of Car	4.17 LM	P 2,041.00
Dapitan	Dumaguete	REV Car/Pick-Up	4.96 LM	P 2,242.00
		Passenger Jeep	6.49 LM	P 2,642.25
		6 – wheeler truck and above	5.63 LM	P 3,871.00

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this Order once in a newspaper once in any of the five (5) major newspapers of national circulation in the Philippines.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships, Applicant's premises, passenger terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on May 30, 2005 at 2:00 P.M. at the Hearing Room, Cebu Maritime Regional Office, Ground Floor, CCCI Bldg., cor 11th & 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE), afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision

WITNESS, the Honorable Administrator, VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR., this 16th day of May 2005 at Cebu City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) GLENN G. CABANEZ
Regional Director

(PDI – May 23, 2005)

ELYSIUM GARDENS
COLUMBARIUM
277 E. RODRIGUEZ SR. AVE., QUEZON CITY
Marketing Office
301 GARDEN HTS. CONDOMINIUM, E. RODRIGUEZ SR. AVE., Q.C.
723-6494 / 723-7651 / 723-6335
WELCOME BROKERS AND AGENTS

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

In Loving Memory
on the Fourteenth Death Anniversary of

GORGONIA MEDINA VITUG

of Arayat, Pampanga and Quezon City
who joined our Creator on May 24, 1991.

Masses wil be offered at the following churches on May 24, 2005

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, *Kanlaon St., Q.C.*	6:30 AM
Sto. Domingo Church, *Quezon Avenue, Q.C.*	12:15 PM
Most Holy Redeemer Parish, *Brixton Hill, Q.C.*	6:30 PM

We design **OBITUARIES** for free.

FR. VENANCIO S. CALPOTURA, S.J.

was called home to the Lord on Saturday, 21 May 2005.

Wake: Oratory of St. Ignatius at Loyola House of Studies,
Ateneo de Manila University Campus, Loyola Heights, Q.C.
Mass will be celebrated every evening at 8:00 p.m.

Funeral Mass: at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 25 May
in the Oratory of St. Ignatius, Loyola House of Studies.

Interment: Sacred Heart Novitiate Cemetery, Novaliches, Q.C.
immediately after the Funeral Mass.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

METRO MANILA
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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Philippine Electricity Market Corporation (PEMC), the governing body of the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM), is inviting nominations for qualified individuals to become members of its standing governance committees. Successful nominees will have demonstrated proven professional and personal accomplishments, a good understanding and appreciation of the industry reform process and free market principles, a track-record of integrity and honesty, and a strong desire to serve the country through impartial governance of the WESM, ultimately contributing to the future sustainability and efficiency of our Electric Power Industry.

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- The ***Market Surveillance Committee***, to be comprised of five (5) members, will be tasked to monitor the trading activity of WESM trading participants, to ensure compliance to the WESM rules and fair competition in the market.
- The ***Dispute Resolution Administrator***, and ***Panel*** to be comprised of seven (7) members, will act as an arbitration panel for the resolution of any issues arising between participants.
- The ***Rules Change Committee***, reconstituted from the original Technical Working Group (TWG), which will be comprised of fifteen members. Twelve members have been drawn from the former TWG participants. Nominations are being solicited for the three (3) members who should be independent of the power industry.

Self-nominations will be accepted. However, anonymous nominations will not be considered. Closing date for nominations is on Monday, June 20, 2005. Nomination forms are available at the PEMC Office as well as on our website at www.wesm.ph.

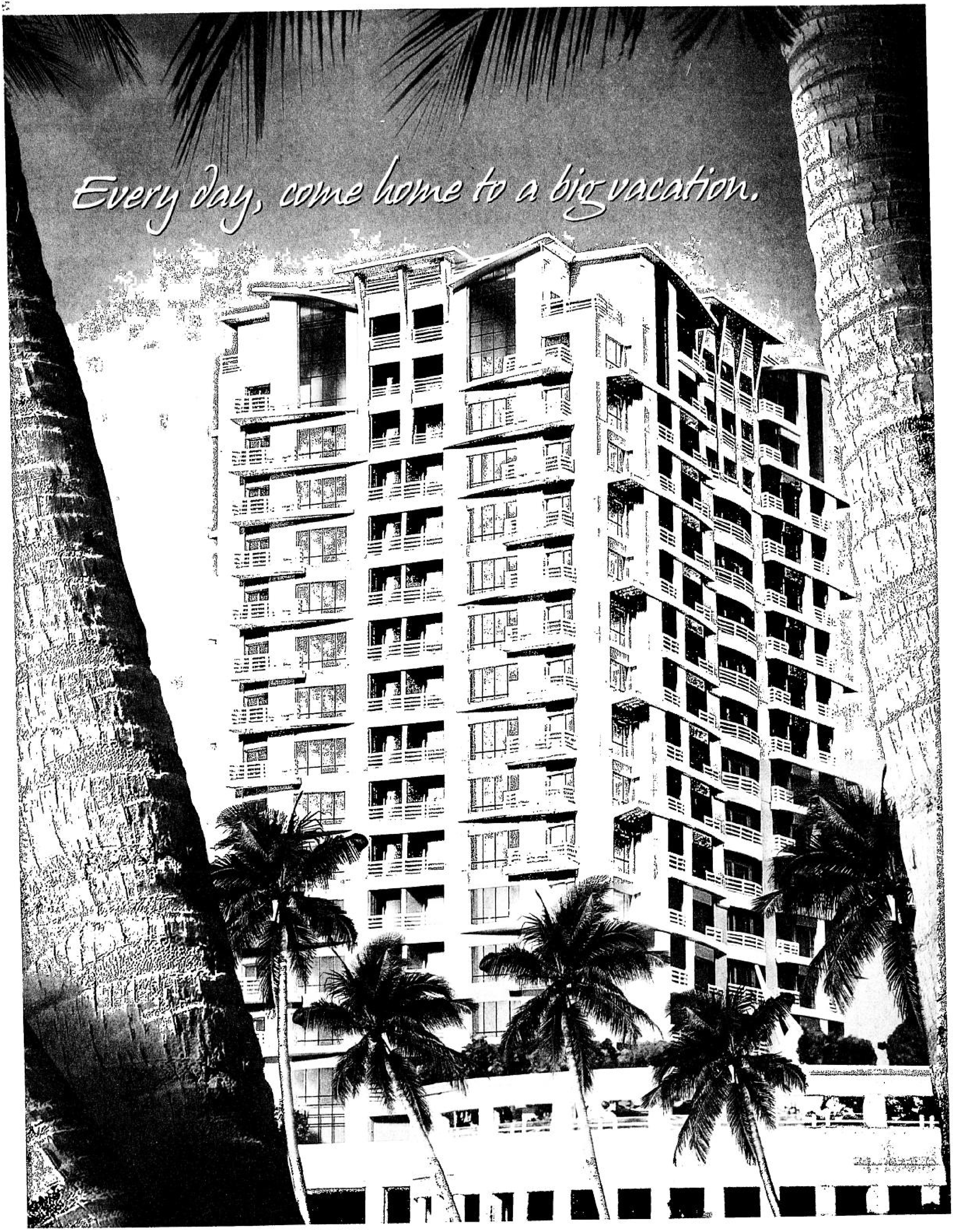
Philippine Electricity Market Corporation
9/F Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Telephone (632) 631-8734 Fax (632) 636-0802

Farmers distribute rice under the NFA's Ifad program

THE NATIONAL Food Authority is currently distributing some one million bags of rice through local farmers' organizations under its Institutionalized Farmers as Distributors program (Ifad). The program allows rice-based farmers' organizations (FOs) to buy a certain volume from the agency's rice imports intended for stabilization purposes and trade it in the market during the lean months of July to September.

To help farmers' augment their income and enhance their entrepreneurial skills, the Ifad is being implemented this month to stabilize prices as commercial rice prices continue to be affected by the recent fuel price increases. According to NFA Administrator Gregorio Y. Tan Jr, rice allocations of Ifad participating FOs are based on the food agency's Farmers as Importers program (FAI), another program of the NFA that allows FOs to import part of the government's food security requirements.

To qualify for IFAD, the farmers' organization must be a member of a local registering agency such as the Farmers Action Council or the Philippine Farmers' Advisory Board, a licensed retailer, wholesaler or transporter and must have a Certificate of Operation or Certificate of Good Standing issued by any appropriate registering agency.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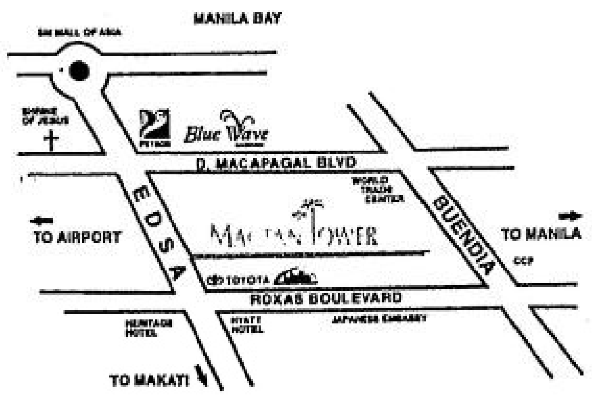
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BUSINESS Monday

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Reviving muscovado's glory days

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MUSCOVADO, the unrefined sugar that goes so well with a hot cup of coffee and native delicacies, was one of the most prominent export commodities of the Philippines in the 1800s.

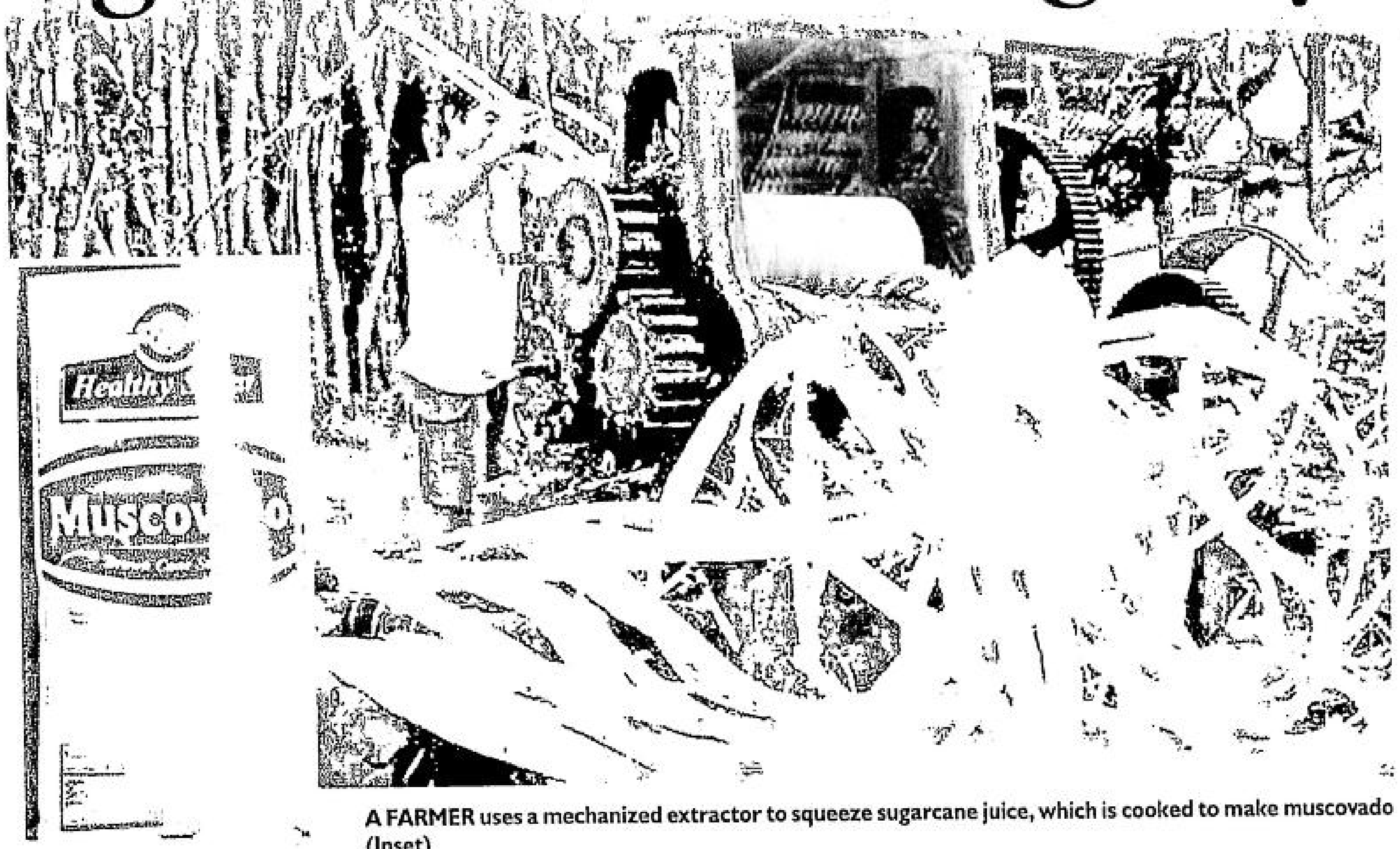
But by the early 1900s, the muscovado industry had seen the last of its glory days with the coming of the Americans.

Investments in modern sugar milling facilities and a preference for bland, white sugar put refined sugar on top of the exporters' list.

The art of making muscovado, thus, was pushed back to where it came from—the backyard.

The industry nevertheless survived, particularly in Antique, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Iloilo, Batangas, Negros Occidental, Bukidnon, Davao del Sur, Sultan Kudarat and North Cotabato, providing farmers in these areas with a steady, albeit small, source of income.

Muscovado, derived from the Spanish word *mascabado*,—also known as Jaggery in India, Gur in Bangladesh and Tanela in Colombia—is made by boiling the juice extracted from sugarcane until the liquid evaporates. What remains is then dried to make the dark brown, muscovado.



A FARMER uses a mechanized extractor to squeeze sugarcane juice, which is cooked to make muscovado (Inset)

The production of white sugar, on the other hand, takes more steps, involves more equipment and uses chemicals.

But the resulting sugar is 99.9 percent sucrose, while muscovado has a sucrose content of only 80 percent at the most.

This means that it will take more muscovado to sweeten a cup of coffee.

Because of less production, muscovado is more expensive at P50 a kilo, while refined sugar costs about P28.

Fortunately, market tastes are changing yet again in favor of the dark, not too sweet, dark brown sugar, and it might even bring back the heydays of the muscovado industry.

A study on the Philippine muscovado industry commissioned by the Philippine Development Assistance Program Inc. showed local and foreign demand for muscovado has been increasing in pace with the trend toward organic and healthier food sources.

Muscovado is considered a healthy alternative since there are no chemicals added during production, unlike white, refined sugar.

Data from the National Statistical Coordination Board showed that export volume of muscovado sugar escalated from 84,292 kilograms in1987, valued at $53,782, to 7.7 million kilograms in 2003, with an export value of $3.689 million.

As of 1999, the Netherlands was the biggest market for muscovado, accounting for more than half of the export volume that year of 314,190 kilograms.

A far second was Japan with 56,860 kilograms, followed by Germany, 30,500; Switzerland, 30,100; the United States, 15,107 and Canada, 3,941 kilograms.

If the recent surveys are to be believed, we are just seeing the beginning of the surge in demand for everything organic.

The Philippines could cash in on the trend, but urgent measures need to be put in place to help the sunshine industry, not the least of which is to arrest the declining production of muscovado.

The PDAP study showed that muscovado production dropped significantly from 58,424 metric tons in 1987 to just 10,207 metric tons in 2001, after hitting a record low of just 3,438 metric tons in 1993.

The decline was largely attributed to the closure of a number of muscovado mills and conversion of sugarcane areas into rice farms, the study said.

Antique has remained the biggest source of muscovado sugar, and is its single biggest industry.

In the 1960s, seven out of 10 kilograms of muscovado produced

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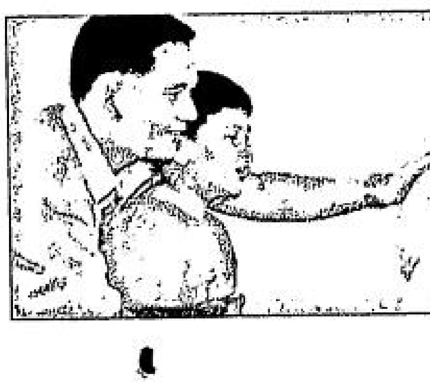

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The good news

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Julius M. Labrador

NEWSPAPERS are awashed with ideas on fund raising to meet budgetary requirements. Little is said on how efficiently the money is used. To give a proper perspective on the possibilities that exist, let us, for a moment, focus on what is happening in one of our provinces.

The governor of the province has had years of experience in logging in Mindanao as well as in Indonesia and has applied his experience in road building to benefit his province. Realizing the importance of an efficient road network, farm to market roads, especially in a province that has been affected by lahar, and using his business acumen, he has efficiently and expeditiously utilized the resources of his province to build new roads and upgraded existing ones that are no longer useful in bringing products to markets.

With the enactment of RA No. 917, provincial governments had access to funds for infrastructure building, repairs and maintenance. His first step in achieving his goal of providing the province with an efficient road network involved a paradigm shift in the personnel involved in his project. The idea conveyed to his staff was: "You are here because you are supposed to be better than I in implementing the improvement of road networks. If you are not better than I in attaining our objectives, I do not need you here."

The next step was the development of an efficient machinery maintenance organization. All equipment had to be in good operating order, available at all times and appropriate for the job on hand. A "lean and mean" organization together with personal visits to jobsite resulted in roads of 5 kilometers being developed and asphalted in four months; in bridges that suddenly appear in two months and in roads upgraded practically overnight.

When asked about the problems of road right of ways, his solution was this. First his project supervisors were asked to visit the lot owners to convince them of the increase in values of their properties. If this was not successful, he himself would visit the landowner and cite examples of benefits derived by lot owners who donated their land. For those not convinced, he would have a prepared copy of their Tax Declaration showing the value of their land. Since the land is not developed yet, its valuation would be miniscule when compared to developed land and the owner would opt to just donate the land.

Time and again, projects waiting for funds of millions of pesos were completed in record time. For example, a thousand hectares of land was inaccessible because of the necessity of building a bridge estimated to cost P75 million. The bridge was to be built to allow floodwaters to drain without washing away the highway. A much smaller bridge was built for P 600 thousand. Both approaches to the bridge were built so that in times of flood, gaps in the approaches designed to be washed away would allow floodwaters to flow. After the flood, the gaps would be refilled and the road would be passable in three days.

In another project, a budget of P 30 million was required. Upon close scrutiny of the road plan, a portion of a hill would be cut and the soil would be transported to a dumpsite. In the same plan, a large volume of fill would be purchased to elevate a portion of the road. Both the undertakings were less than one kilometer apart. His experience in "cut and fill" projects was brought to bear on the road development with a saving of P 12 million. In addition to this, because of the efficiency of the equipment belonging to the province, the time to build was cut by 70 percent, resulting in additional savings in overhead and labor.

The examples herein show that it is indeed possible to create substantial savings by using not so common "common sense". It shows that by the use of innovative techniques, it is possible to realize substantial savings. Most importantly, it shows that many of our government officials are performing way above normal expectations. Many times, this is done without banner headlines and without publicity.

The good news is, if these actions are emulated and multiplied a thousand times, we will soon have an exceptionally well-managed country.

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is president of HMR-Labtech Enterprises, Inc. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

Reviving muscovado's...

From page B2-1

came from this province. But by 2001, Antique's prominence declined, accounting for only 38 percent of production, and further dropping to just 27.44 percent in 2003.

But despite the decline in market share, Antique still has the most number of muscovado mills in operation, with 141.

While Antique saw a decline, Sultan Kudarat is coming to the fore as a major producer of muscovado.

Sultan Kudarat's share went up from 22 percent in 2001, 23 percent in 2002 and 26.86 percent in 2003, almost toe to toe with Antique.

Other market leaders in 2003 were Pangasinan, 21 percent; Tarlac, 15 percent; Negros Occidental, 8 percent; and Davao del Sur, 2 percent.

The dire lack of modern manufacturing equipment has likewise hampered muscovado production.

The PDAP study showed that 96 percent of muscovado producers still use conventional methods that have hardly changed since the 1800s.

The data showed that of the 258 muscovado mills operating in the country, 11 still use carabaos to extract the juice. The rest use motorized extractors similar to those introduced about 50 years ago, and a few were upgraded using technology developed by the Sugar Regulatory Administration.

Because of the antiquated technology, the farmers have not been able to produce as much muscovado sugar compared to if they got new equipment and employed new systems.

Farmers, for instance, could only convert half of the sugar cane into juice, which is then cooked and dried to make muscovado sugar.

With modern techniques, extraction could go up to at least 60 percent, the PDAP study said.

Farmers also have to contend with impurities such as soil, and small chunks of bagasse, which not only lowers quality but also yield.

All these factors work together to bring down production to inefficient levels.

The study places equivalent production to only 10 percent of the cane volume, which means that for every ton of sugar cane, farmers could only get about 100 kilograms of muscovado. That's if they are lucky.

But all is not lost for the muscovado industry, and the farmers that work in it.

Because of the rising demand for the unrefined, healthy sugar and recognition from the private and public sectors of the sugar's bright prospects, attention is now being focused on how to unleash its export potential.

The Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, an attached agency of the Department of Trade and Industry, for one, is putting its promotions muscle behind muscovado, adopting it as one of its priority products for export.

PDAP, on the other hand, has scheduled the "First Philippine Muscovado Summit" on May 24 at the AIM Conference Center, in partnership with the Peace and Equity Foundation, Foundation for Sustainable Society Inc., Asia Japan Partnership Network for Poverty Reduction and World Accord-Canada.

The summit seeks to get different players of the industry together to come up with a definite and workable plan to put the muscovado industry back on its feet.

No better time to do it than today when the local and export markets have gotten back their taste for healthy, unrefined muscovado sugar.

Japanese seen to spend $1B in RP by 2008

TOURISM Secretary Joseph Ace H. Durano is eyeing a huge windfall from the Philippine business mission to Japan next month.

He said the mission, scheduled from June 1 to 10 in Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya, could help generate around $1 billion in annual tourism receipts from the Japanese market alone by 2008.

While also aimed at promoting Philippine exports to Japan, the mission is strongly geared to reinforce the ongoing tourism marketing campaign in the Japanese market through high-volume deals with its outbound tour operators.

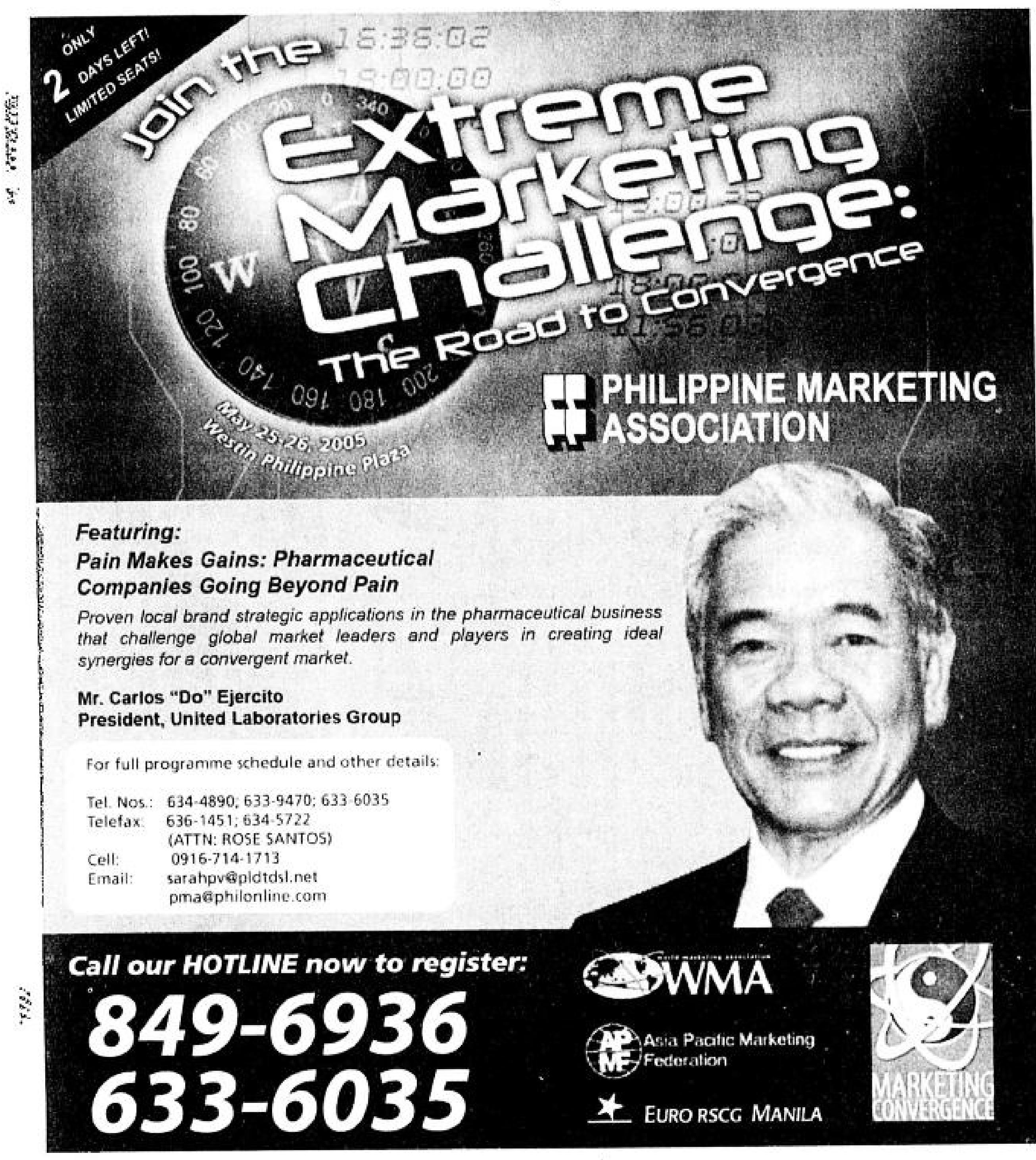
"The goal is to increase Japanese arrivals to a million by 2008 from last year's 382,307 and raise their spending to $160 a day from the present $79.80," Durano said.

That means $800 per individual at an average five-day stay, or a conservative $800 million in tourism receipts from the Japanese visitors alone.

Sponsored by Philippine Airlines, the mission is also intended to take advantage of the projected increase in Japan's outbound travel from 16.83 million in 2004 to 17.4 million this year, and help turn the Philippines into a premier tourism destination in the Far East.

"The mission involves business conferences and individual appointments between Filipino enterprises and their Japanese counterparts, including a 'Tourism Business Exchange,' in each of the three cities," Durano added.

He is inviting Filipino businessmen to join the mission by contacting the Philippine Convention and Visitors Corp. (PCVC), the marketing arm of the Department of Tourism through 5251153, 5259318 loc. 229/230/231, e-mail pcvcnet@dotpcvc.gov.ph, or website www.dotpcvc.gov.ph.



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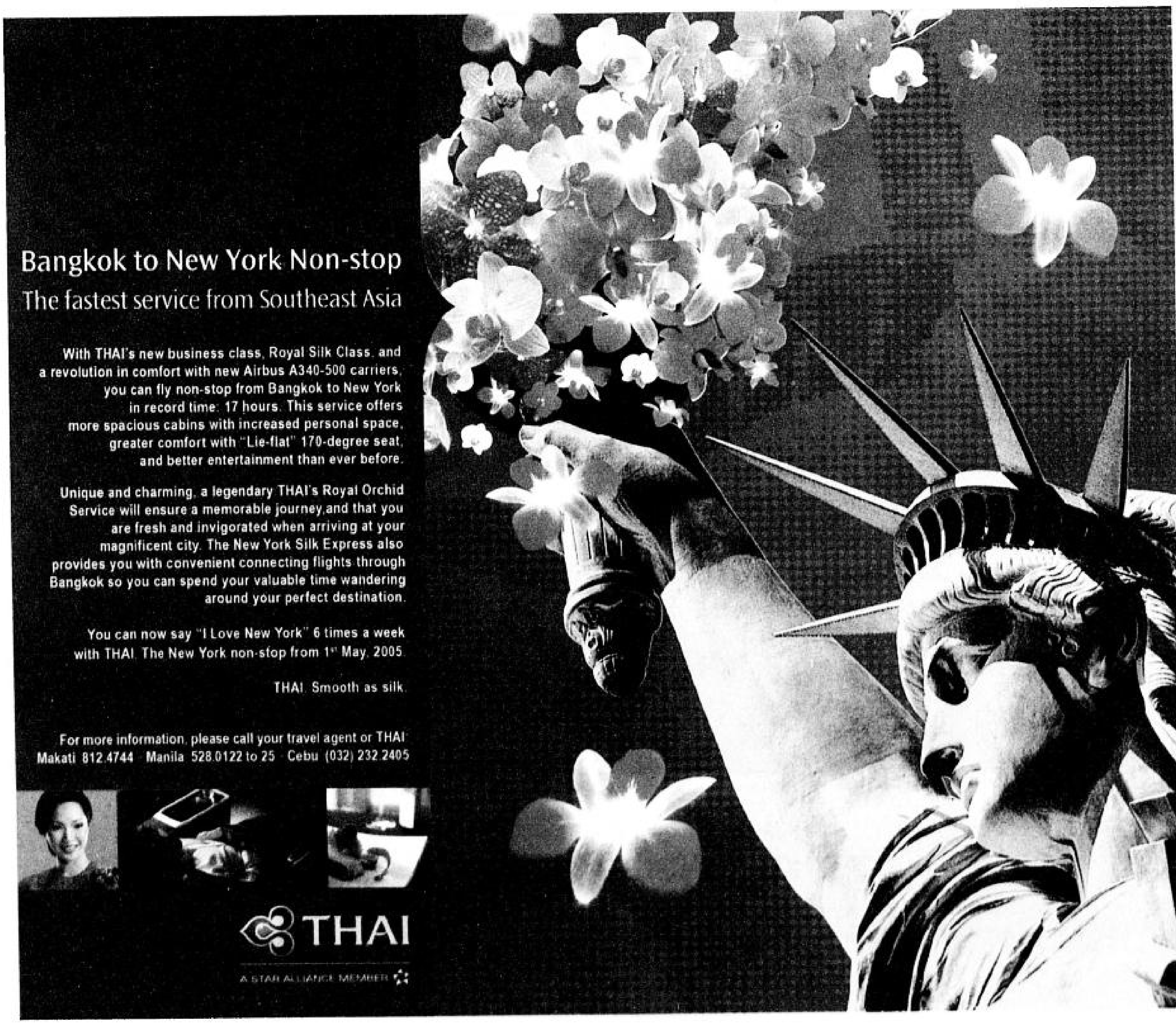

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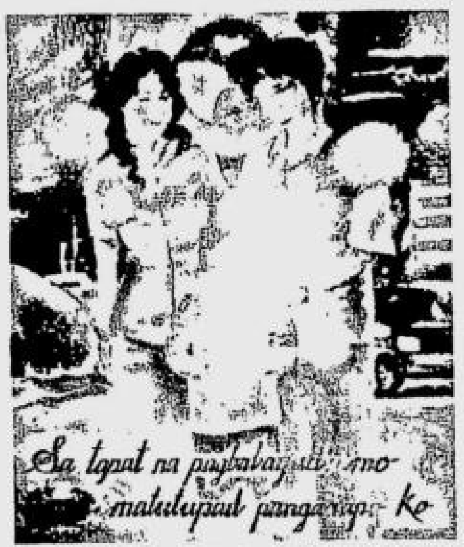
BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno (right) and SM's SVP Controller Ricky Lim put up a BIR signage at SM Department Store in SM City North Edsa. With them is BIR's Deputy Commissioner for Information Systems Group Lilia Guillermo.

SECOND place winning entry by Arnel Natividad from Rizal High School

Bringing tax awareness to the country's malls


Sa tapat na pagbabayad mo matutupad pangarap ko

RICARDO Arsenal's first prize winning entry. Arsenal is from Muntinlupa National High School

SM AND the Bureau of internal revenue recently embarked on two mall-based programs that not only highlighted their dynamic partnership, but also brought the BIR's tax consciousness campaign to many Filipinos.

The first was the launch of Operation Dikit at SM City North-Edsa, which was graced by no less that BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. and other officials including BIR revenue district officer Clavelina Nacar and regional director Nestor Valeroso. SM officials led by SM President Tessie Sy-Coson, SM Investments CFO Jose Sio, and SVP Ricky Lim, welcomed them as they went around the mall to distribute receipt consciousness stickers to the different tenants.

Earlier, the Tax Management Association of the Philippines exhibited 15 winning posters in "Pangarap," a Poster Slogan Competition held at the SM Megamall. A partnership between the Department of Education, National Capitol Region (NCR) and the Bureau of Internal Revenue, this is part of TMAP's continuing commitment to reach out to taxpayers everywhere.

With the theme "Wish-Ko Kinabukasan Ko," and a message to reach out to the youth's hope for themselves and the nation, the competition attracted over 170 entries from 50 participating schools in metro Manila. Through their beautifully crafted and thoughtfully designed posters, the students were able to communicate their ideas on how taxes help the country move forward and make dreams come true.

The youth were able to speak to the country's taxpayers about the need to pay the right taxes. Ricardo Arsenal, Jr. of Muntinlupa National High School placed first with his slogan "Sa Tapat na Pagbabayad Mo, Matutupad Pangarap Ko." His message: A citizen should not only think of himself, but also of the welfare of the nation.

A simple program honored the winners with BIR deputy commissioner Lilian Hefti, assistant commissioner Lucita Rodriguez, project director Joel Tan Torres, and regional directors Rene Aguas and Nestor Valeroso leading the ribbon cutting ceremony.

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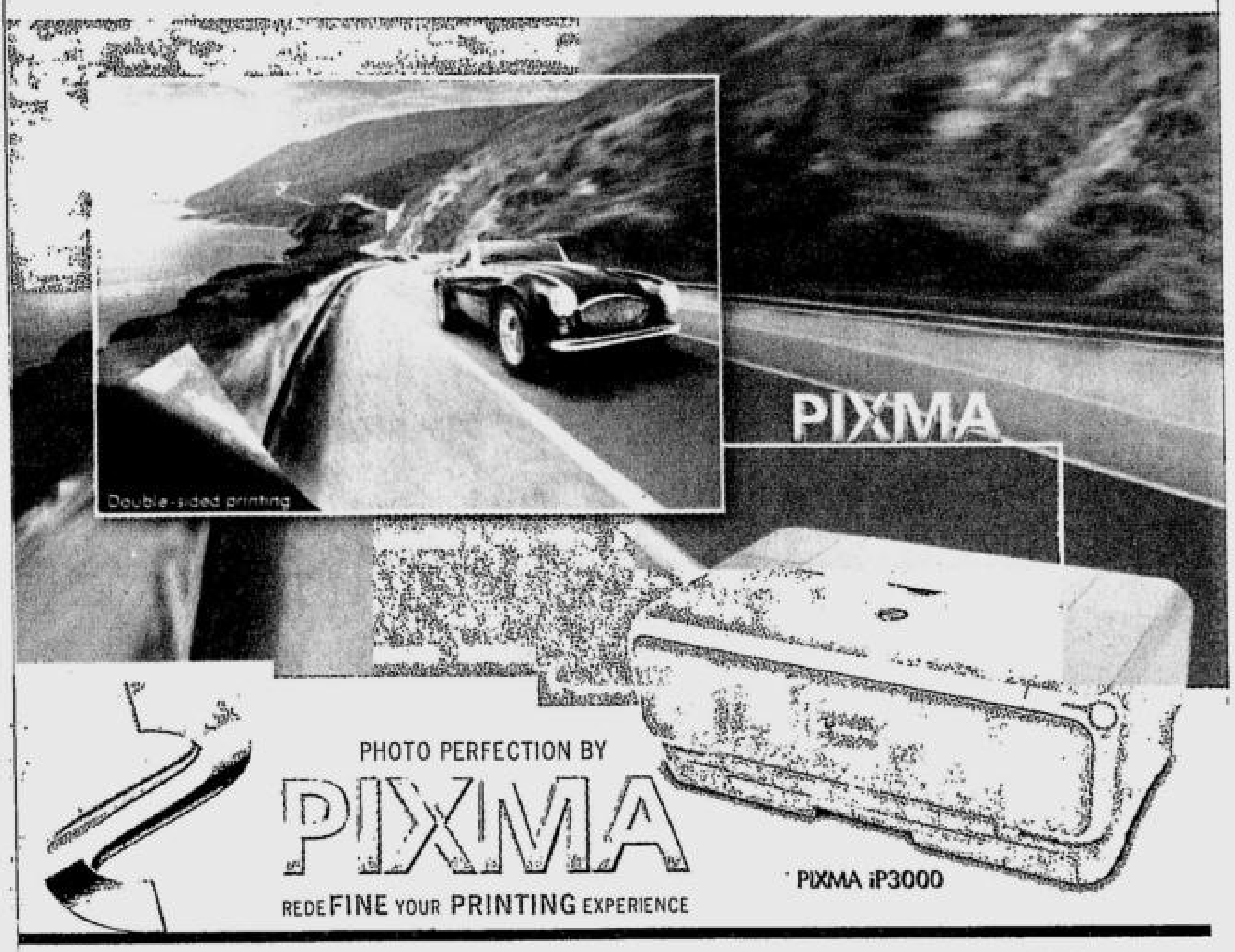

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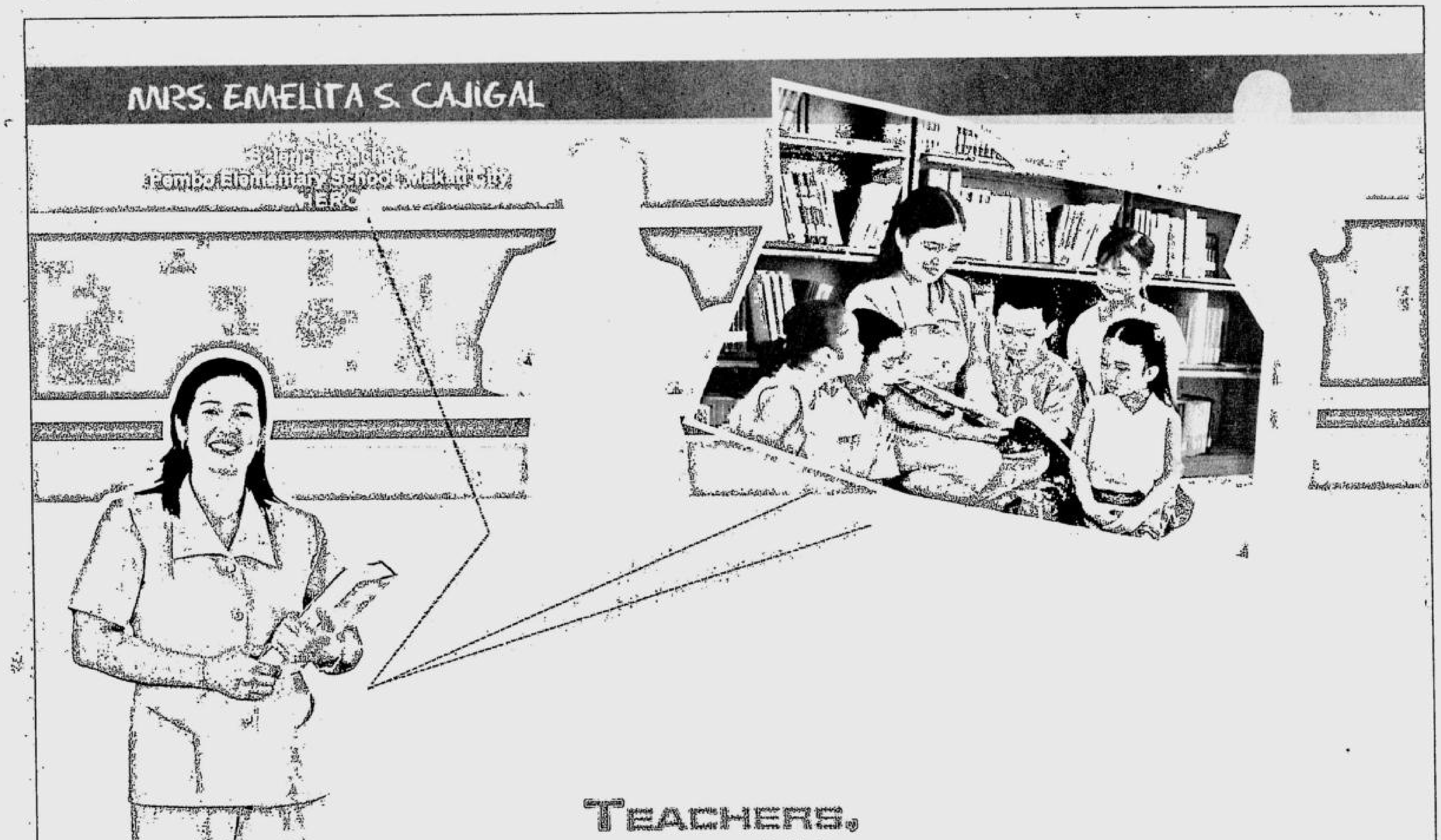

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THIS 32-seat Dornier plies tourist routes regularly.

Tourism boosts small airlines' services

By Marlet D. Salazar

THE INCREASING number of tourists in the country has prompted smaller airlines to expand, add more flights, and acquire more carriers. For a time this summer, there was a plane arriving and departing every half hour at the Caticlan airport to bring visitors to and from Boracay, a popular tourist spot.

Being an archipelago, many of the Philippines' tourist spots are far from the major airports. At the same time the number of people going to some of these spots may not fill a single flight of a major aircraft.

This created an opportunity for smaller airlines.

Remote areas that are potential tourist destinations are now opening up their runways for smaller carriers.

Rudy Fulo, president of Corporate Air (CorpAir) says most small airlines concentrate on the tourism traffic.

Far-flung routes

If some major airlines cater to business travelers, small airlines serve the vacation or holiday travelers.

"Ninety-nine percent of our market segment are tourists," Fulo says.

Southeast Asian Airlines (Seair) vice president Patrick Tan says, an increase in international tourism could translate to a higher increase in domestic tourists.

"In the Philippines, perhaps there's a 15-percent increase this year," Tan says.

Routes are chosen and decided upon depending on passenger demand. Although at present small airlines are exploring the possibility of servicing most rural areas, they still consider the practicability of operating the flights and the availability of airports.

The farthest flights of Seair are Basco, Batanes in the north and Tawi-tawi in the south. CorpAir provides an airlink between Davao and General Santos City.

"Mindanao is a good area for small aircraft because of the proximity of the routes," Fulo says. The airline used to operate in Cagayan de Oro, Zamboanga and Cotabato and now has plans of connecting Surigao and Siargao from Cebu. It recently launched its flight to Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro.

CorpAir was initially established to serve the requirements of Federal Express cargo services and its personnel between Subic and Manila.

Seair flies mostly to resort destinations like Busuanga, El Nido in Palawan and to other areas like Cebu, Zamboanga, Sulu, Tawi-tawi. It will soon fly to Camiguin and Siargao.

What these "small" airlines may lack in size, they compensate it with frequency of flights.

Caticlan is one of the busiest airports this summer. CorpAir once flew eight flights in one day while Seair allows travelers to reach Boracay in 35 minutes with its Dornier 328 aircraft. Seair has the most flights to Boracay, according to Tan, with 18 scheduled flights a day. They also fly to about 18 different destinations in the Philippines.

CorpAir operates regularly with two flights to Caticlan and one flight four days a week to Baguio.

"But on a per need basis, we operate as many as we can as long as there is an aircraft available," Fulo says.

Time-saving

Tan stresses the importance of saving traveling time especially to businessmen, working people and tourists. "Time saving opens up local travels to more local tourists."

He cited going to Boracay as an example. Before, the only route to getting there was through the Kalibo airport; after which one takes a two hour trip to Caticlan where one takes the boat to go to the island.

Fulo says, for them, expansion means "not really acquiring more aircraft but utilizing more of the aircraft available, adding flying time, and opening up more routes."

"The expansion is to have more flights with the same fleet and crew without adding more aircraft," he says.

Small aircraft, however, do not yet enjoy the trust given by most passengers to the bigger carriers because of skepticism of its safety.

Seair's fleet includes nine Czech-made 19-seats LET, and its latest two 32-seat Dornier 328.

"Dornier 328 flies about the same speed as a jet or some 630 km per hour," says Tan. "It offers the same passenger comfort, is four years old and has the same technology as airbuses."

CorpAir's fleet includes a brand-new Cessna Grand Caravan 208D from the United States, a fully air-conditioned 19-seat Dornier 328 and the 19-seat DeHavilland Twin Otter.

"The Otter is the sturdiest aircraft in aviation," Fulo says, "FedEx pilots prefer this because of its good record in terms of safety and durability."

Both airlines require periodic training of pilots, mechanics and crew here and abroad. They have the initial and "recurrency" training every so often.

With regard to the air worthiness small airlines as opposed to a much larger airlines, CorpAir is quick to point out that they are audited by the Air Transportation Office and the Federal Aviation Administration of USA.

"We comply with the international standards," says Tan of Seair, "Our airline has a very good safety history."

Decades-old swan still flies high

ALMOST four decades ago, in a tribute to the swan, a bakeshop was named after it.

More popularly known today as the "Swan Catering Services," the bakeshop has since metamorphosed into a flourishing business that specializes in catering and event planning for weddings, debuts, theme parties, kiddie parties, and just about any occasion.

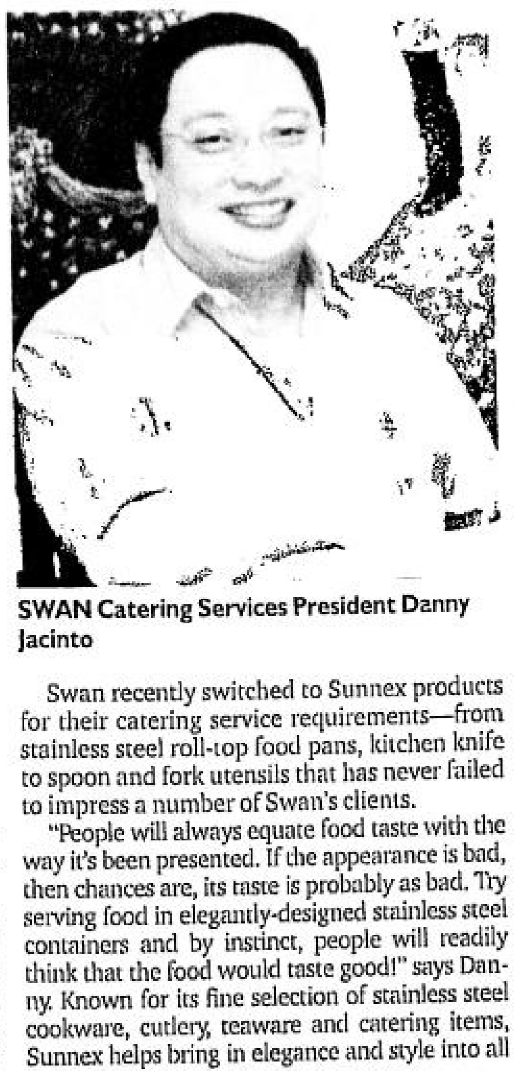
Narrates owner Danny Jacinto, "The Swan business was put up in 1966 by my maternal grandmother, Nieves de Leon Cruz. And although my grandfather didn't actually approve of it at first, my *lola* simply wouldn't be denied."

As president of Swan Catering Services, Danny sees to it that the legacy left behind by his grandmother is followed to the letter. To ensure customer satisfaction at all times, the company's main tenets were strictly enforced: "Good food, excellent service and innovative presentations." The company now prides itself in being able to offer a virtual smorgasboard of earthly delights such as sans rival and *ensaymada*, and an eclectic mix of Spanish, International, Filipino and Chinese cuisine.

After 39 years, the company now offers virtually every catering-related services from balloons, bands, entertainment, bridal cars and party hosting to wedding gowns, florists, novelty items, sound system to staging and lights! One of the latest additions to the business is the now 3-year old Swan Restaurant located at Palacio Grande in Intramuros Manila.

A member of the Food Caterer's Association of the Philippines (FCAP), Swan is now a full service catering and event planning company whose well-trained staff and innovative food preparations never fail to amaze even the most demanding clientele. To date, Swan has already successfully handled a record event of more than 8,000 people on one occasion and was recently chosen to represent RP in a cake-making competition sanctioned by the International Cake Exhibitors Society.

Of late, Swan has been getting favorable results from clients not only for its warm service and exquisitely prepared cuisine. "Credit," he smiles "goes to a new-found kitchen partner."



SWAN Catering Services President Danny Jacinto

Swan recently switched to Sunnex products for their catering service requirements—from stainless steel roll-top food pans, kitchen knife to spoon and fork utensils that has never failed to impress a number of Swan's clients.

"People will always equate food taste with the way it's been presented. If the appearance is bad, then chances are, its taste is probably as bad. Try serving food in elegantly-designed stainless steel containers and by instinct, people will readily think that the food would taste good!" says Danny. Known for its fine selection of stainless steel cookware, cutlery, teaware and catering items, Sunnex helps bring in elegance and style into all kinds of buffet and party events.

"Many of our customers were delighted to find out that we've been using lavish utensils for our catering services. Unknown to them, we got them for a little less cost than they could ever imagine," he smiles.

(Swan Catering Services, 413-0824 to 25. Sunnex, www.sunnex.com.hk, 242-3040, 242-2235)

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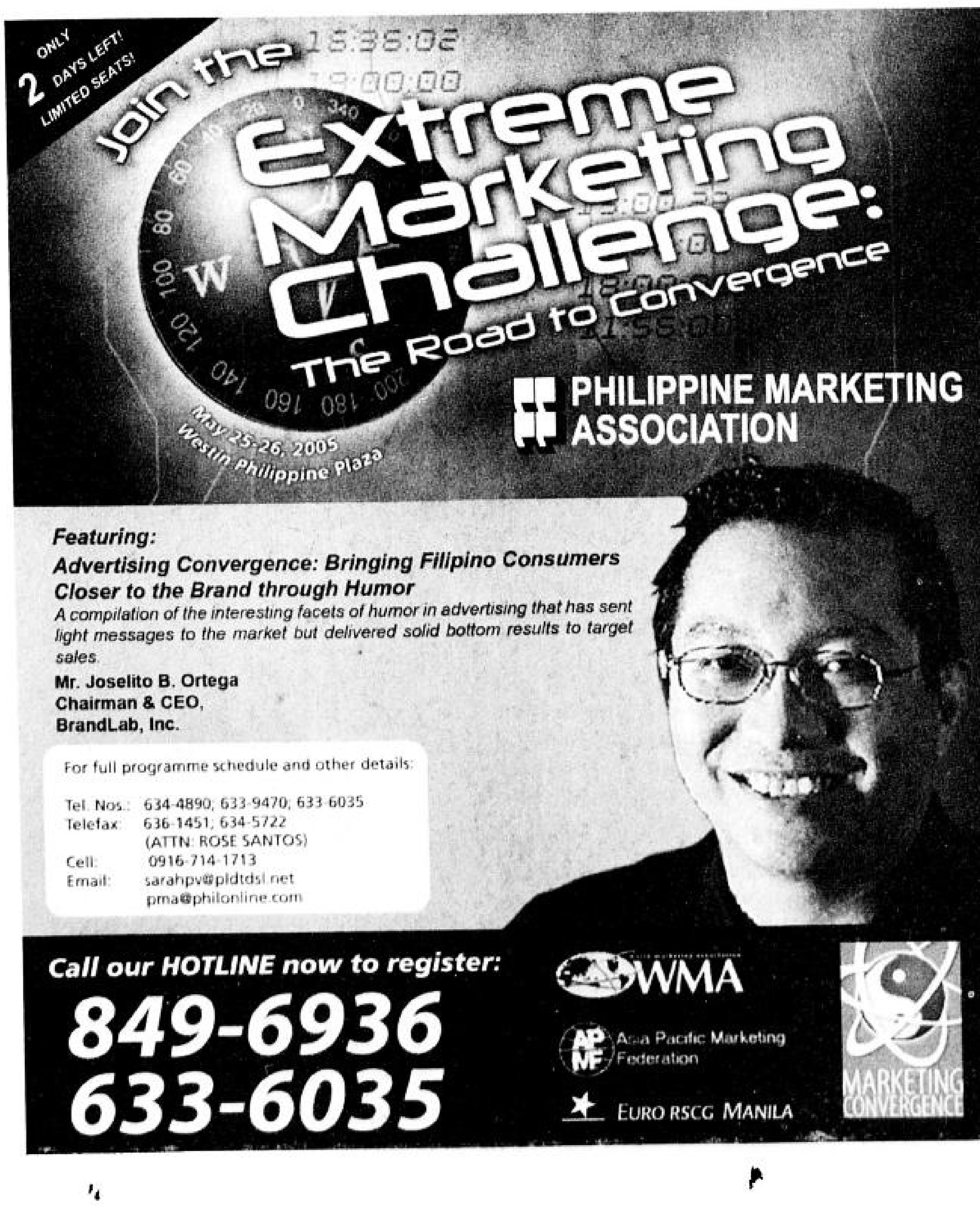

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Math wizard turns logistics wonder

IN THE fast-paced world of supply and demand, Gawad Sinop Supply Management Professional of the Year 2005 awardee and Kraft Foods customer service and logistics director for Southeast Asia Lourdes "Lulu" Guzman is at the top of her game.

The supply chain is the system of suppliers and customers that are involved in manufacturing a product or providing a service to the market. It is a vital part of a business' operations, as a poor supply chain will result in products or services not being able to be delivered when demanded by the market. For a global food manufacturer like Kraft, an effective supply management system is critical in its daily operations.

"Supply chain management is all about coordinating the activities of suppliers to meet the requirements of customers above them in the supply chain, involving not only time schedules, but also quality and quantity requirements. It is all about effective management between buyers and suppliers to optimize design, planning, production, delivery of materials and other resources used in manufacturing and production," Lulu said.

"Have you ever been to a shop to buy something, only to be told "Sorry, we're sold out." Or have ever had to delay manufacturing a product because the raw materials hadn't arrived yet? These are examples of what occurs when the supply chain isn't well managed, and can result in customer dissatisfaction, either in the market, or within part of the supply chain. If you can't supply what is required, when it is required, you will lose customers, resulting in decreased sales and declining reputation," Lulu explains.

Math to logistics

"If there's something I admired about Lulu is she's very good with numbers and has an in-depth understanding of what the market needs and how she is able to deliver those needs," said Charmaine Cortez, demand planning and replenishment manager of Kraft Foods Southeast Asia.

Her proficiency with numbers was apparent at a very young age while studying at Far Eastern University's school system. "You might say I belong to a special group of people who loved Math. I loved the challenge of solving equations and formulas. My friends often say to me the analytical side of my brain is so developed that I should also focus on developing my artistic side," Lulu said.

GUZMAN

A consistent honor student, Lulu pursued an undergraduate degree in chemical engineering (cum laude) and a master's degree in business administration. "During my time, engineering was considered a "males only" course. Maybe I wanted to prove to myself and probably to everybody that females can also become engineers. One lesson I learned that time, which I kept close to my heart, is that life is all about continuous learning. We should never stop learning," Lulu said.

Three decades ago, chances of female engineers getting a job in their field was hard. "When a job position opened for a secretary to the plant manager in a pharmaceutical company, I took it and I'm glad because my job also involved some technical issues which gave me an opportunity to practice some of what I learned in college," Lulu said.

She also took up teaching in her alma mater as a mathematics and management instructor. Despite teaching the subject she loved, Lulu felt unfulfilled and went back to the corporate world.

"My job at Kraft started when my husband, who was working for Kraft before me, left the company. It's like I replaced my husband but I was given a different position and task to handle," Lulu said.

Recognition for job well done

Because of her work in Kraft, her peers in the Philippine Institute for Supply Management

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It has come to the attention of **Unilever** that a number of establishments have been engaged in the unauthorized importation, sale, distribution and/or disposition of certain products under exclusive distributorship/franchise and bearing the registered trademark Lipton in flagrant violation of the property and industrial rights of **Unilever**.

Please take notice that the unauthorized importation, sale, distribution and/or disposition of Lipton products under exclusive distributorship/franchise as set forth above shall expose the unauthorized importer, seller, distributor and/or disposer to civil and/or administrative sanctions pursuant to relevant Philippine law and jurisprudence. The Supreme Court has held that "the right to perform an exclusive distributorship agreement and to reap the profits from such performance are proprietary rights which a party may protect, which may otherwise not be diminished, nay, rendered illusory by the expedient act of utilizing or interposing a person or firm to obtain goods from the supplier to defeat the very purpose for which the exclusive distributorship was conceptualized at the expense of the sole authorized distributor". Consequently, **Unilever** hereby reserves its right to resort to injunctive relief and other allied legal remedies against parallel importers of Lipton products in this jurisdiction.

We hereby demand that establishments engaged in the unauthorized importation, sale, distribution and/or disposition of products immediately remove such merchandise from their main stores, branches, affiliates or related businesses, and cease and desist from the importation, sale, distribution or disposition of said unauthorized Lipton products. Otherwise, we shall be constrained, much to our regret, and without further notice, to institute appropriate civil and/or administrative action(s) to protect **Unilever**'s rights and interests under the premises.

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GlobeSolutions launches Corporate Ringback

IN RESPONSE to the increasingly competitive nature of business, GlobeSolutions now offers Corporate Ringback - a new, effective option that allows corporate clients to advertise their company, products, services, or events. This service is the latest in the wide range of business solutions offered by GlobeSolutions to address the communication and marketing needs of their corporate customers.

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GlobeSolutions Corporate Ringback maximizes the pervasiveness and popularity of mobile phones and of accompanying value-added services such as downloadable ringtones among the Filipino market. These features can provide companies with an effective, cost-efficient way to advertise that will allow them to directly reach their target consumers. Exploring the potential of the cellular phone as a medium for advertising may well pave the way for a new trend in non-traditional advertising.

Dan David, Globe Telecom's Head of Corporate Wireless Business, explains that "by offering this service, GlobeSolutions is not only providing convenient and reliable business communication solutions to its corporate clients. We are proud to offer them as well an innovative way of enhancing and promoting their business, through the creative use of mobile communications technology."

Call the GlobeSolutions hotline (730-1999) now to inquire about Corporate Ringback and other business communication services, or e-mail globesolutions@globetel.com.ph .

FAT CHOI GRAND OPENING

PHOTO BY ROMY HOMILLADA

Fat Choi Hong Kong Style Fastfood Restaurant recently opened at the Festival Mall in Alabang, Muntinlupa. Shown at the ribbon cutting ceremony were, from left: Emil Javier, general manager and owner of Fat Choi Restaurant; Mike Gotianun, executive officer, Filinvest; Teri Choi, Fat Choi Restaurant franchisor, and Agnes Javier, manager and owner of Fat Choi Restaurant.

SUPERFERRY OPENS TB CLINIC

Superferry recently opened its newly renovated TB health center aptly called Pook Tutok Gamutan in Area D, Gate 17, Parola of Barangay 20, Tondo, Manila. The TB clinic is the first health center located in Parola, which provides TB-centered medical assistance to more than 60,000 residents in that area. Present during the blessing was Manila Councilor Kim Atienza, who delivered an inspirational talk to the patients, health volunteers, and stakeholders of the anti-TB project. Pook Tutok Gamutan strengthens SuperFerry's social commitment to address health and nutrition, specifically in the fight against TB, in cooperation with Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) and Kagabay (Kabataang Gabay ng Bayan). Shown are (from left) Rowena Sugay of PBSP, Manila Councilor Kim Atienza, Aurora Agojo of the Manila Health Department, and Aboitiz community relations associate Arthur Mangalus, with Kagabay members of Parola, Tondo.

Land Rover not connected to MG Rover Group

IN VIEW of some recent misunderstandings, Land Rover would like to make it clear that it is an entirely separate company from MG Rover.

With the appointment of administrators at MG Rover in the United Kingdom, Land Rover wishes it to be made clear that there is no connection between the two companies.

Ford Motor Company acquired Land Rover from BMW in 2000. After the recent successful launch of the Land Rover LR3, as well the continued success of Freelander, Land Rover is looking forward to the launch of two new vehicles, the Range Rover for 2006 and the all-new Range Rover Sport due in retailers in June 2005.

Land Rover North America is part of Aston Martin Jaguar Land Rover with headquarters in Irvine, California. Land Rover established operations in the United States in 1986, and now imports and distributes Range Rover, LR3 and Freelander vehicles manufactured by Land Rover in Solihull, England. Land Rover's worldwide operations are wholly owned by Ford Motor Company, Dearborn, Michigan.

The official Land Rover representative in the Philippines is LR Philippines Motors Inc, with two dealerships at 399 Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati and at 88 ADB Avenue, Ortigas. For more information, call the dealerships at 897888 and 633-0185 respectively.

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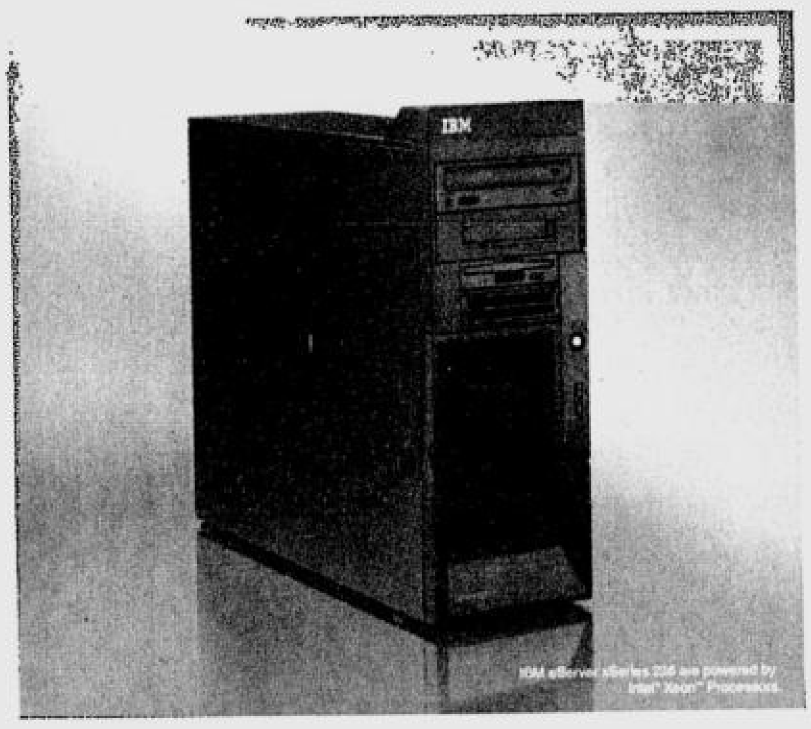
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Tsino-Tagalog music revived

IF YOU try to tune in to 94.7 FM on Sundays, chances are the station plays a Tsino-Tagalog song you would think the singers are native Chinese. The fact is that the musical artists behind the song, a group called Twilight Harmony, is an all-Pinoy group.

Yet, from the very start, Twilight Harmony was planned differently. For one, it has always been intended to be a group of singing professionals rather than a group of professional singers. The emphasis is on the passion for music and not how they learn from their music or the love of money.

Pop start

Created 12 years ago by its executive director Mr HT, as the members call him. Twilight Harmony started with pop music, too pop and too embarrassing to recall now. In time, the group found its way to Disney classics and Broadway hits.

Along the way, as the group became more versatile, its music also became more eclectic and included traditional Tibetan Buddhist chants redone in a soothing style that is unmistakably late 20th century. It is this roundabout way through different schools of music that contributes to the genre that the group has now embraced as its very own: Tsino-Tagalog musika.

How Twilight Harmony adopted this musical genre has a historical background. It is believed that long before the Spaniards arrived in 1512, Tsino music was already familiar to the natives of the land and accepted, since one could hear distinct traces of it in tribal ballads.

This root of Tsino music is exactly what Twilight Harmony would like to go back to, thus making their music, so to speak, a revival of a long-lost tradition. Not to mention that in their songs, the blending of lyrics in Mandarin (Beijing) Chinese and Tagalog represents the "bridge of goodwill" between Filipinos and other people of the world.

Monk as diction teacher

If Twilight Harmony's members can render a Tsino-Tagalog song impeccably, it is because they have been blessed to have a monk from a Buddhist temple in Beijing serving as language coach and diction instructor. As a result, most local Tsinoys have a difficult time believing that the group is composed of true-blue Filipinos as they sing the Tsino portions of the songs like Beijing-born native Chinese and the Tagalog portions like real Filipinos.

Indeed, Twilight Harmony has come a long way from the time it was conceived as just an ordinary singing group. Aside from singing engagements, there are plans to produce its own album in the future and eventually release it in the market.

To listen to the music of Twilight Harmony, tune in to the following stations: DWBL 1242 10:30 to 11:30 p.m. Saturdays; DWSS 1494, 12 to 2 a.m. Sundays; Mellow Touch 94.7, whole day Sundays; DZME 1530, 5 to 6 p.m. Sundays; DYLA 909, 12 to 1 p.m. Sundays; and Touch of Grace, 8 to 9 p.m. every first Friday of the month.

Sisters best sanitary napkin brand

SISTERS Sanitary Napkin, the ultimate choice of practical sisters in feminine hygienic products, has been chosen as the Best Sanitary Napkin Brand for 2004.

According to the Consumers League of the Philippines Foundation executive board, the nomination for the award came from the informal sector associations nationwide, random consumer survey and research as well as opinion polls.

Sisters Sanitary Napkin was chosen from the other brands owing to its company's reliability, excellent quality, competence, marketability and price reasonability.

The consumers league also considered public opinion and nominations in choosing the winner.

"Our company, Mega Soft Hygienic Products Inc (MSHPI) acknowledges that there is a need for a sanitary napkin that would answer the real hygienic needs of Filipino women and provide them true value for their money," MSHPI president Emilio Go said.

"Thus, we came up with the Sisters Sanitary Napkin and Partyliner brand. Due to its quality and affordability, we believe that this product is the ultimate practical choice of Filipino women and we are greatly honored with this rare citation for a new player in the trade."

"Rest assured that Mega Soft will continue conducting researches and studies on how we could serve the consumers better," Go said.

Family gets a 'craving'

CRAVINGS has found a new home in Pasig City. Not that the country's favorite family restaurant had left any of its cozy homes in other parts of the city but that its newest outlet is located right in the heart of a booming business center—and this was made possible when Cravings shared a 'slice of its success' through franchising.

The new Cravings-Metrowalk is now the nearest hideaway for the Ortigas district's young professionals and families from Valle Verde. And behind this success is the grandfather-mother-son team of Dr. Romulo S. Trinidad, Marianne "Maia" Trinidad and Daniel T. Orense.

"The turnout of people has just been encouraging," says Maia. "Even our function rooms are packed. We have doctors here from Medical City, conducting their weekly meetings next to another luncheon meeting of call center executives. Outside, you have group of families dining especially on weekends."

Metrowalk, a 19-hectare commercial hub, features classy retail shops with centralized air-conditioning and an 800-car capacity parking area.

The family that got this Cravings franchise were the same ones who ran the famous 'Kuhol' restaurants of Makati and QC in the early '90s. After a few years' break in the United States, Maia returned in the country and explored franchise operations.

"This was something new for me but the reputable name of Cravings helped a lot," says Maia. "Its been known for 16 years and we believe that our investments will pay off because Cravings has high standards in every aspect of service and operations."

"Having read that Cravings was on the franchise block, I felt it was time for us to serve Cravings favorite main courses down to the salads, pasta, pastries and even coffee courtesy of The Coffee Beanery," says Daniel.

Since it opened almost a year ago, business has been doing better than expected for Cravings-Metrowalk.

When asked why Cravings is a crowd-drawer in Metrowalk, the family has this to say, "Here, you get a 3-in-1 deal. You get the best in fine dining at an affordable price with Cravings. Then, you don't have to leave your seat because we also have a bakeshop and a coffee shop [The Coffee Beanery]."

Math wizard turns ...

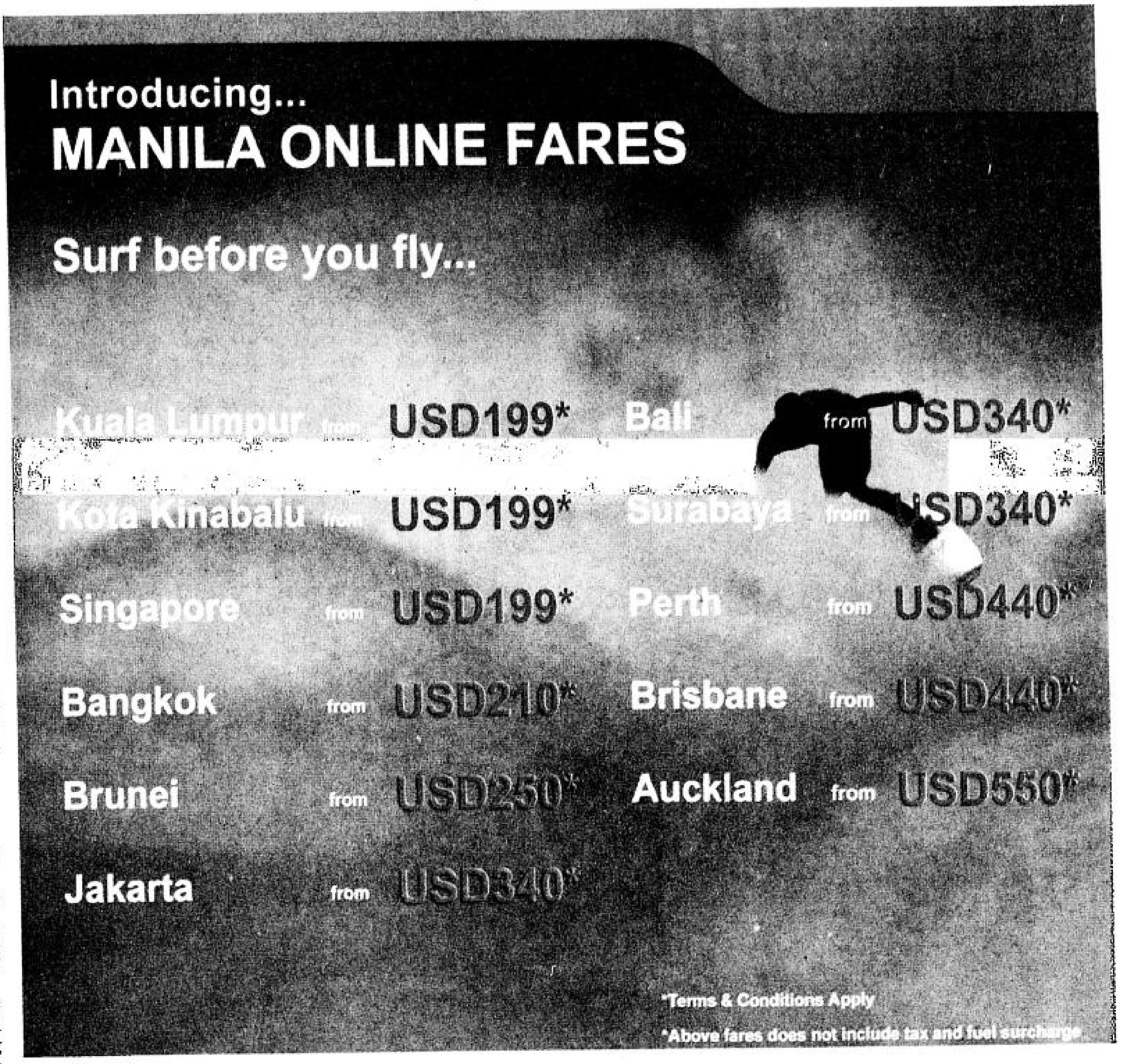
From page B2-5

(PISM) and the Society of Fellows in Supply Management (SFSM) presented to her the Gawad Sinop Award that recognizes supply management professionals for their invaluable contribution to the upliftment of the supply chain management profession.

"I am also involved in the training of supply management professionals here and even encourage them to take the board exams so that they can be globally-competitive. I'm passing on what I learned to future generations so that they find success and fulfillment in their careers," Lulu said.

If there are any maxims Lulu tries to live by and share with everyone, it's always to believe in yourself, work hard and always give your best, and never stop learning.

In the Philippines, Kraft Foods markets the world's favorite food and beverage brands including Tang and Kool Aid beverages, Eden cheese, Cheez Whiz cheese spread, Kraft Chunky Chunks and Miracle Whip spreads, Maxwell House coffee, Oreo and Chips Ahoy cookies and Toblerone chocolates.



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Philam Plans has the largest trust fund in pre-need!

Ensuring the peace of mind and the financial security of its hundreds of thousands of planholders has always been the thrust of Philam Plans. Although a relative youngster in the four-decade old pre-need industry, Philam Plans at sixteen years has built the largest and most stable trust fund to date.

Reports from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) revealed Philam Plans has over P15.3 B in trust funds as of March 2005, majority of which is placed in liquid and near cash investments.

This trust fund level can more than cover for all the present and future obligations of Philam Plans, reason why its planholders are assured that they can reap the benefits of the money they entrusted to the company in time of their need.

The trust fund is the money a pre-need company sets aside for the payment of planholder benefits. It is the yardstick of security for the planholders in determining the ability of pre-need companies to deliver its promises. The more liquid the trust fund, the greater the ability of the pre-need company to meet its obligations.

Security of trust fund

The SEC sets a policy on trust fund investment portfolio mix for pre-need companies to ensure that they have enough liquid assets and are able to meet their obligations to planholders. Philam Plans adheres to all these requirements as well as to the stricter standards set by its parent company, the country's leading insurance company, Philamlife.

Philam Plans' trust fund portfolio is highly liquid, with over 80% invested in government and near cash equivalents. A consortium of the country's most reputable and professionally run banks including Deutsche Bank, Equitable-PCIB and Philam Savings Bank manage the fund.

Assured benefits: 2005 and beyond

This year, Philam Plans gears up to pay its full maturing obligations totaling to P574 million.

Education benefits amounting to P89 million were released to 8,000 planholders nationwide since April 30. Philam Plans issues manager's checks that are as good as cash to ensure the complete peace of mind of its beloved planholders. Over 3,000 Philam Plans pension planholders are set to receive a total of P362 million from the company this year.

At P15.3 billion trust fund level, Philam Plans not only covers all its present obligations but those for the future years as well. From 2006 to 2011, the programmed maturity benefits of Philam Plans is P9.3 billion, an amount well covered even with the current trust fund levels.

As Philam Plans continues its production growth and its adequate trust fund contributions, its trust fund will continue to grow, assuring at all times that the company will make good on its promises to planholders.

A record of promises kept

As the leader in the pre-need industry, Philam Plans strives to be the standard of excellence in pre-need as it secures the education of the next generation of Filipinos, the retirement of thousands of our countrymen and the commemoration of a well-lived life.

Its inherent strength lies behind its Philam name and its grand heritage from Philamlife. Both are known for financial strength, fiscal prudence and the highest levels of fiduciary integrity.

On its 16th year and beyond, Philam Plans stands by its unblemished record of promises kept. The company continues to uphold the welfare and the future of its valued planholders with innovative products and services that suit their various pre-needs.

Today, tomorrow and for all time, Philam Plans' planholders are assured that their futures are secured.

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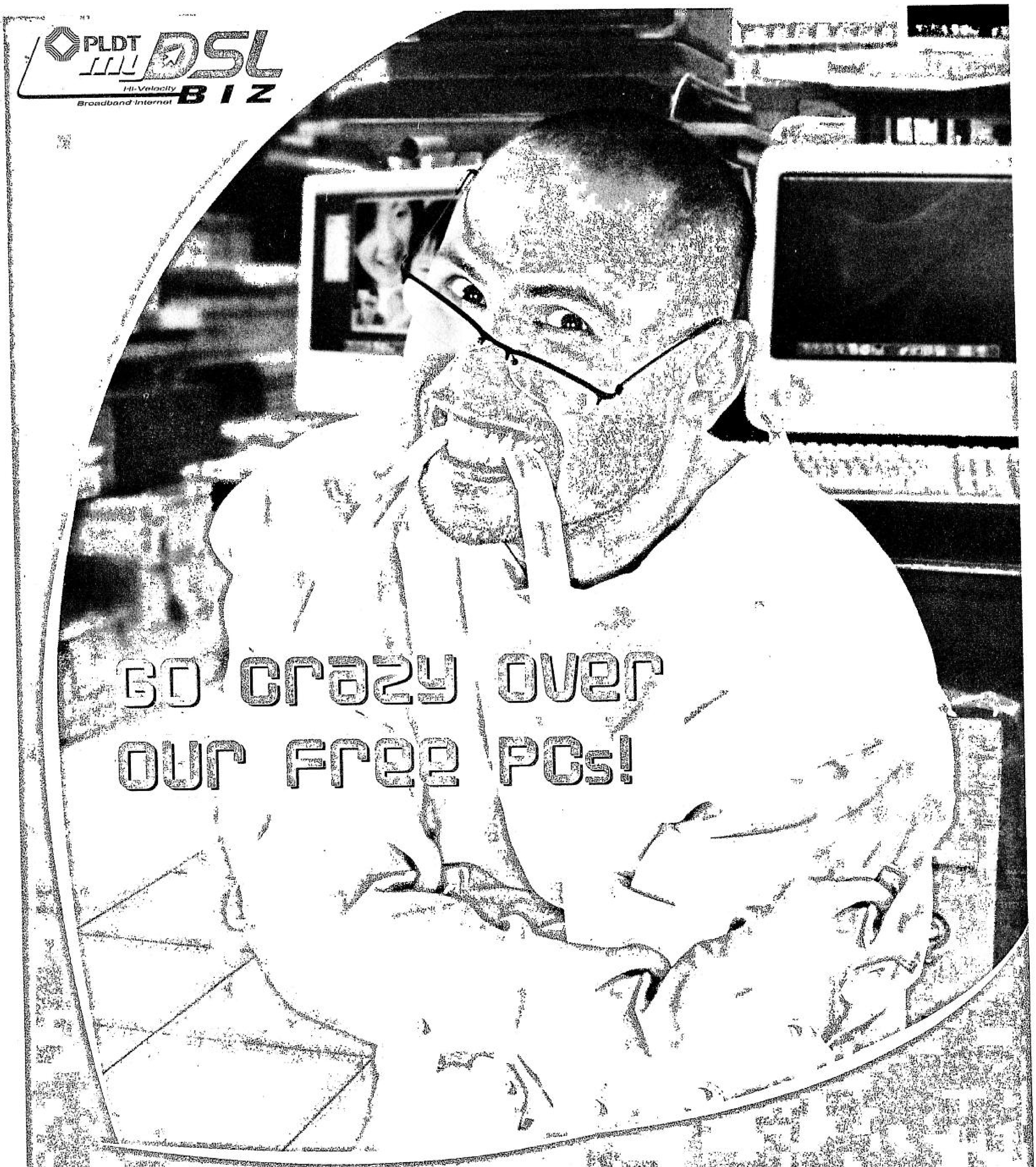

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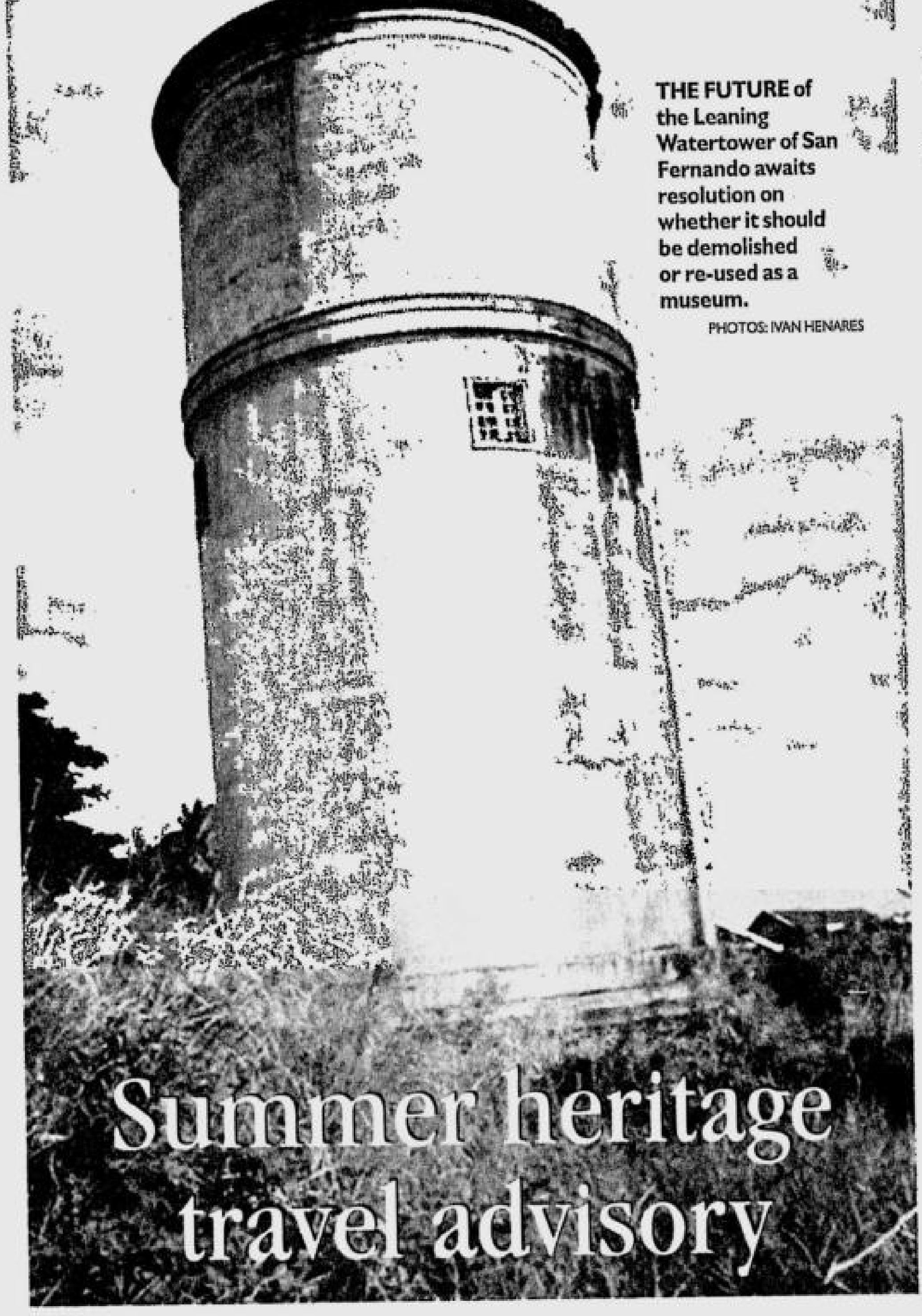
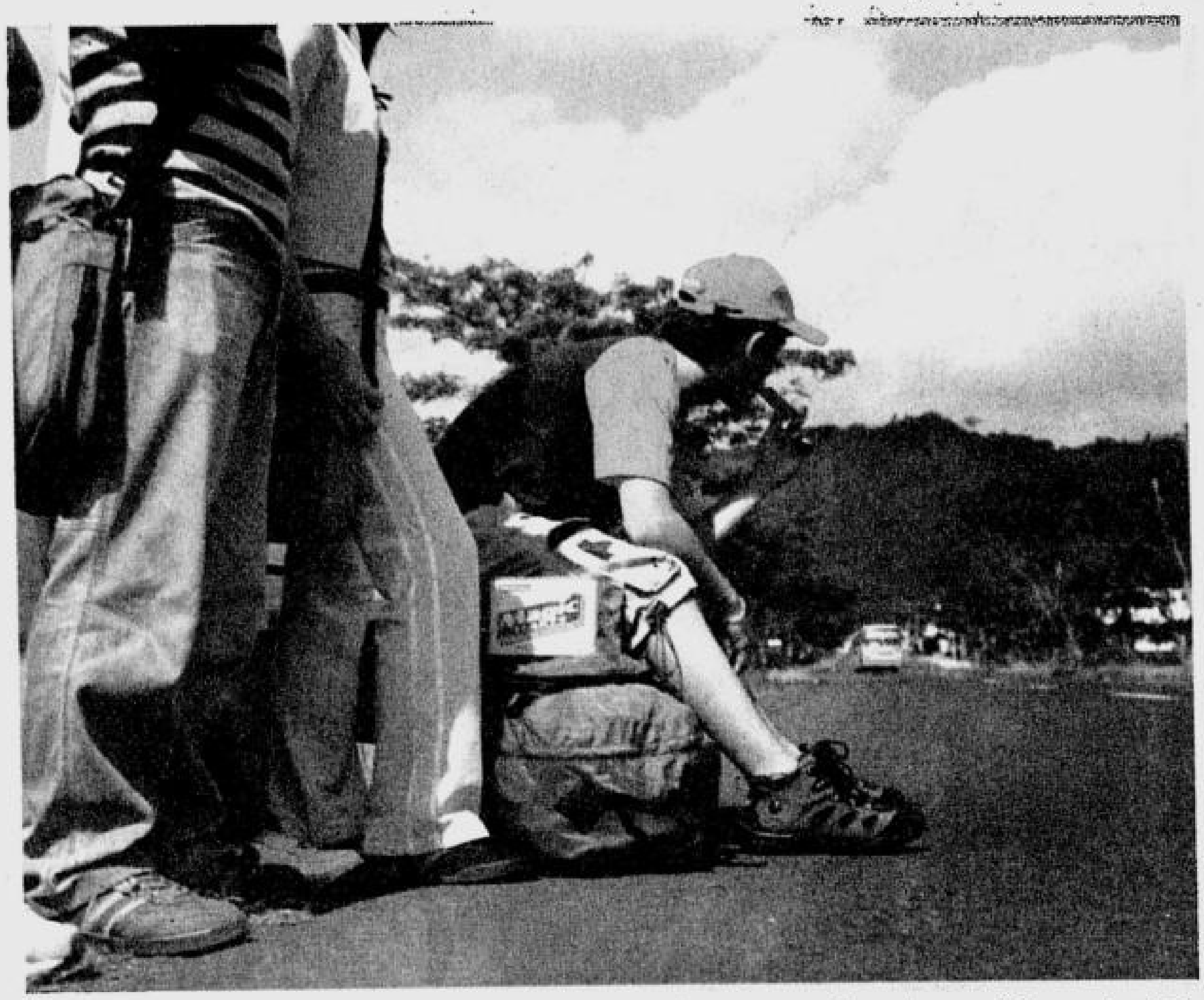


Summer heritage travel advisory

THE FUTURE of the Leaning Watertower of San Fernando awaits resolution on whether it should be demolished or re-used as a museum.

PHOTOS: IVAN HENARES

We tend to think that the farther away we explore, the more interesting and exotic the places would be



LIFE IS WAITING. This teenager finds a moment's peace and steals a quick snack while waiting for the bus that will take him home. *(Flip ahead to see the bigger picture.)*

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

MY FRIENDS and I are going on a road trip to Ilocos (Laoag/Vigan) and then Cordillera (Banaue/Sagada) and we're gonna try to do it backpacker style... any suggestions re the itinerary?" Claire, a member of the Heritage Conservation Society's Youth Group, posted this query on the HCS e-group and her overwhelming response should be shared.

Professor Manolo Noche of the University of Santo Tomas College of Architecture, an accomplished researcher of heritage architecture, responded with an itinerary for a loop through the northern Luzon provinces that I am summarizing.

"If you are interested in built heritage, town-hop," advises Noche, who suggests visiting colonial churches in Ilocos.

La Union has noteworthy churches in Bauang and San Fernando. In San Juan, there are the ruins of the old Pinindingan, a beautiful old *municipio* and Moro watchtower. Do not miss the old church, cemetery and numerous watchtowers at Luna (formerly Namakpacan).

Ilocos sights

Loop Ilocos Sur, visit all towns along the highway. Start with the church and sundial in Tagudin, then see interesting churches and cemeteries in Santa Cruz, Candon, Santa Lucía, Santiago and San Esteban.

Don't miss hilltop Santa Maria Church, a Unesco World Heritage site, the romantic circular *camposanto* (cemetery) behind it, and the old houses in the town. Stroll through Narvacan, a smaller version of Vigan. Its watchtowers and those at San Esteban should not be missed.

Bantay and Vigan, San Vicente, Cauayan and Santa Catalina are towns close to one another with outstanding churches and houses. Further north of Vigan, visit the churches of Magsingal, Sinait and Cabugao for their remarkable baroque *retablos*.

In Ilocos Norte, there are old bridges, a church and colonial cemetery at Badoc. The Marcos Museum and his mummy are in neighboring Batac.

Paoay, a Unesco World Heritage site, is an international landmark. Its massive S-shaped buttresses along the sidewalls are unique in the world. There are ruins of an old *almacén* as well as a spectacular Moro watchtower in Currimao.

Laoag Church has undergone recent renovations but its old cemetery with a Spanish colonial era chapel in the middle is still untouched and outstanding. Of course, travel to Sarrat and Piddig farther east whose colonial churches are a must-see.

There is an interesting Spanish period brick bridge in Laoag leading to Baccara, famous for

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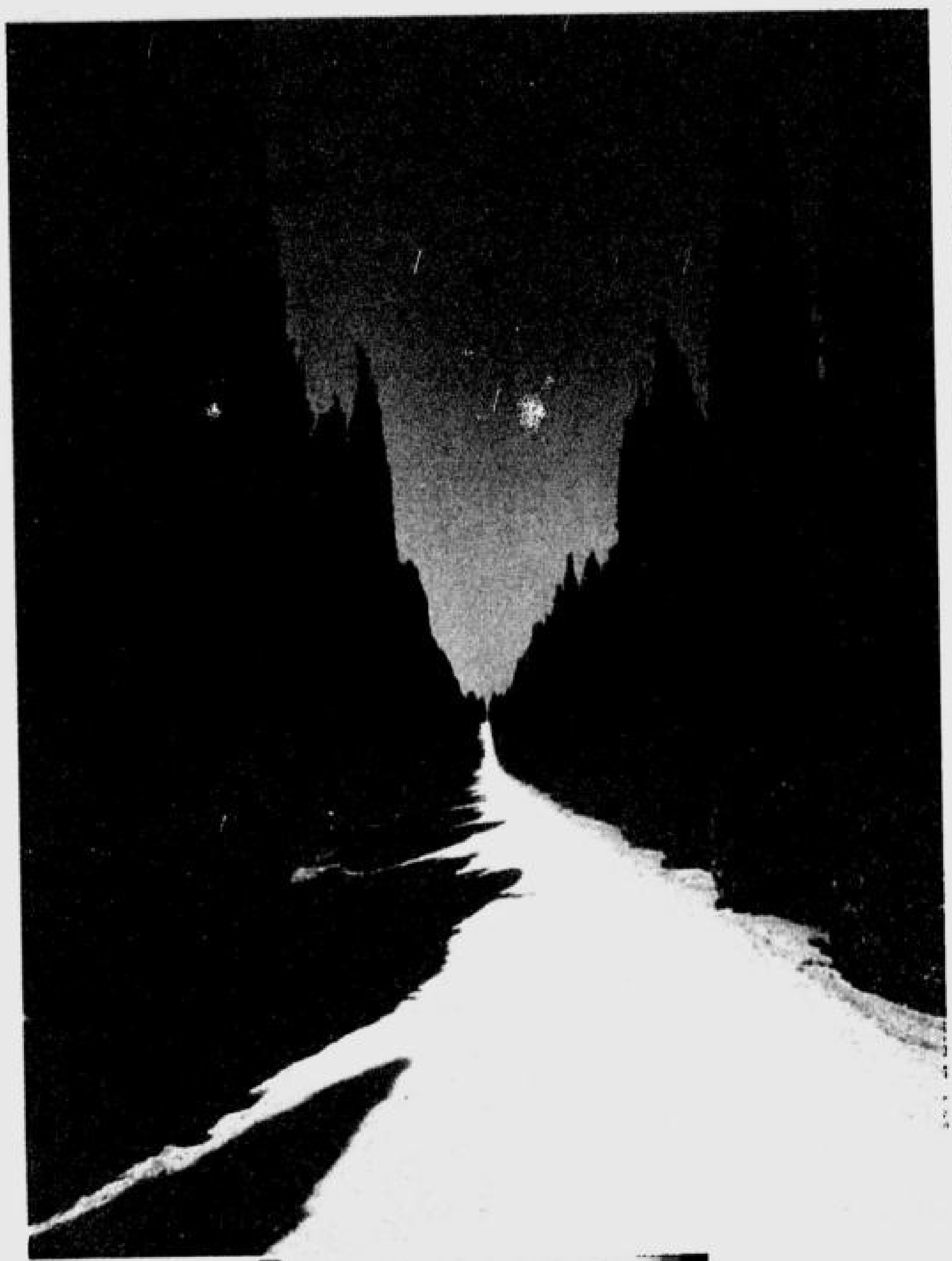

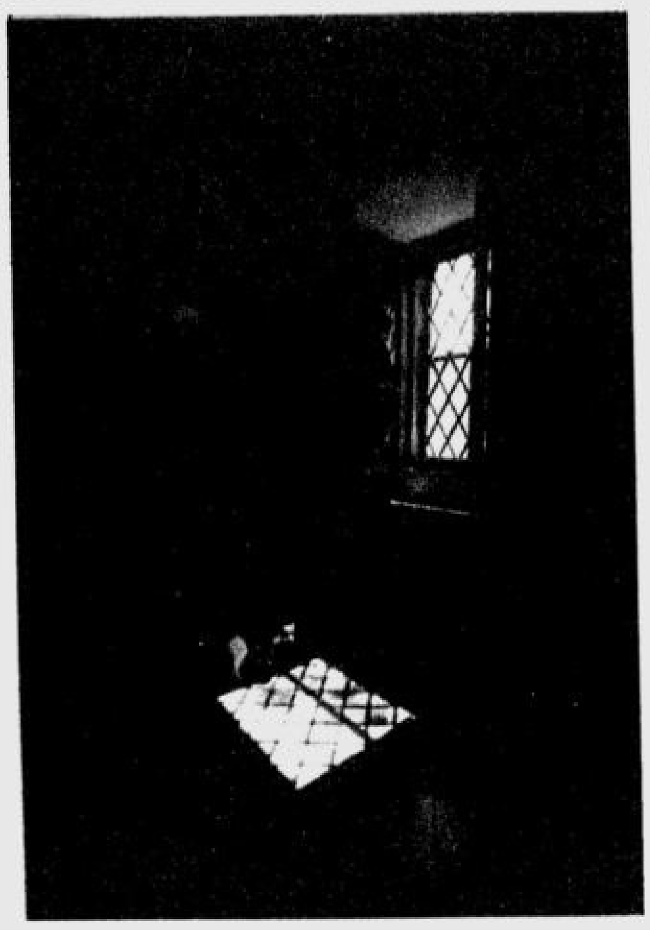

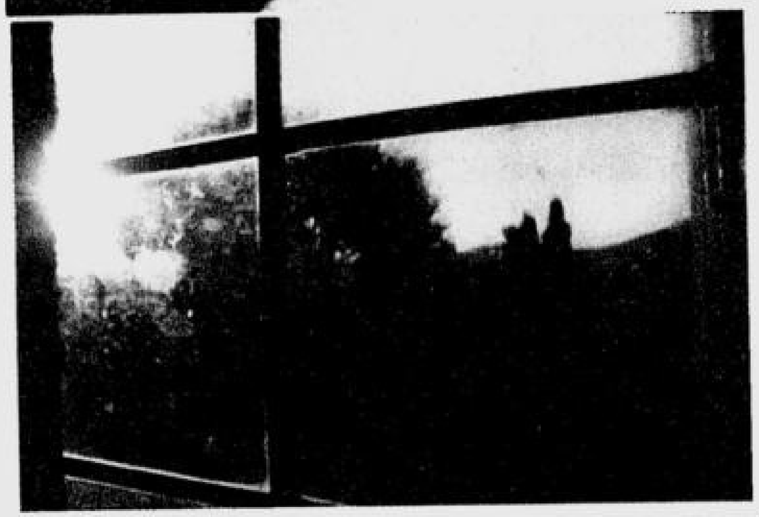

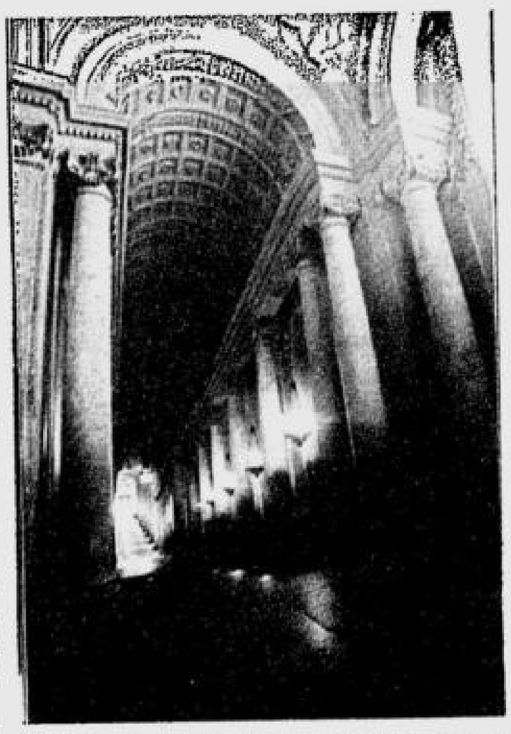

It is natural light in both interiors and outdoors, closely observed and assiduously recorded

Captive light

By Constantino C. Tejero

THE SKILL of a photographer shows not only in his or her visual sense and aesthetic devices (framing, patterns and motifs, texture, chromatics, choice of subject, quality of camera), but also notably in capturing the fugitive light and meandering moment. Here can be found what photographer Denise Weldon calls "the soul of photography."

She explains: "It is when we pause—whether to notice the quiet of a moment, the splendor of nature, or the space between our breaths—that our awareness heightens. Only then do we feel the stillness and become witness to the beauty that light reveals within and without."

The photographer's skill is tested in arresting that fleeting moment (since "light travels faster than any conceivable speed") and in finding significance or meaning in what has been recorded.

The clarity with which Weldon has captured that soul can be appreciated in "Glimpses of Light," 12 large-scale black-and-white photographs in Giclee print on watercolor paper, until May 25 in Silver Lens Gallery at 33-C South Tower, Pacific Plaza Towers, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

Weldon has employed most of those aesthetic devices in these untitled pieces, but they are mostly about light. Each piece, in fact, is a study in light and shadow, from the whitened spiral of a staircase to the glow of gasoliers in a vaulted hallway, to the vanishing point of rows of cypresses along a bleached road.

Weldon's admiration for the photography of Ansel Adams and Sebastião Salgado and the paintings of Monet and Rembrandt clearly shows in her own rendering of landscape, texture, light and chiaroscuro, respectively.

She composes her works chiefly using available lighting. It is natural light in both interiors and outdoors, closely observed and assiduously recorded from early morning through high noon to late afternoon.

"The focus is on the way light illuminates moments or scenes during the course of a day," she says. "These photographs belong to a series I took in Italy, where I caught sight of these pockets of beautiful stillness and light."

And the light she captures wherever it sweeps or falls, as a punctuation on a corner of a windowpane or gate, as a rift or pool between hedgerows, as it washes over a gravel path or orchard, whitens the slender trunks of trees, casts patterns on the floor, or streaks across the sky.

Weldon has a degree in Studio Art, with major in Photography and minors in Art History and Spanish, from Wheaton College in Massachusetts.

An American married to a Filipino architect, she has been living in the Philippines for eight years now. She spent her elementary years in Indonesia, high school in Thailand, and lived for a time in Hong Kong after finishing college in the United States.

It is this meandering, she says, that has become a source of inspiration for her art. "While the visuals are of an external journey to a foreign land, they are also reflections of an interior journey that each of us takes as we move through this life."

For now she's waiting it out for those moments of stillness—to capture the fleeting moments—while trying to enjoy "the surprise, mystery and wonderful unfolding of grace, light and life."

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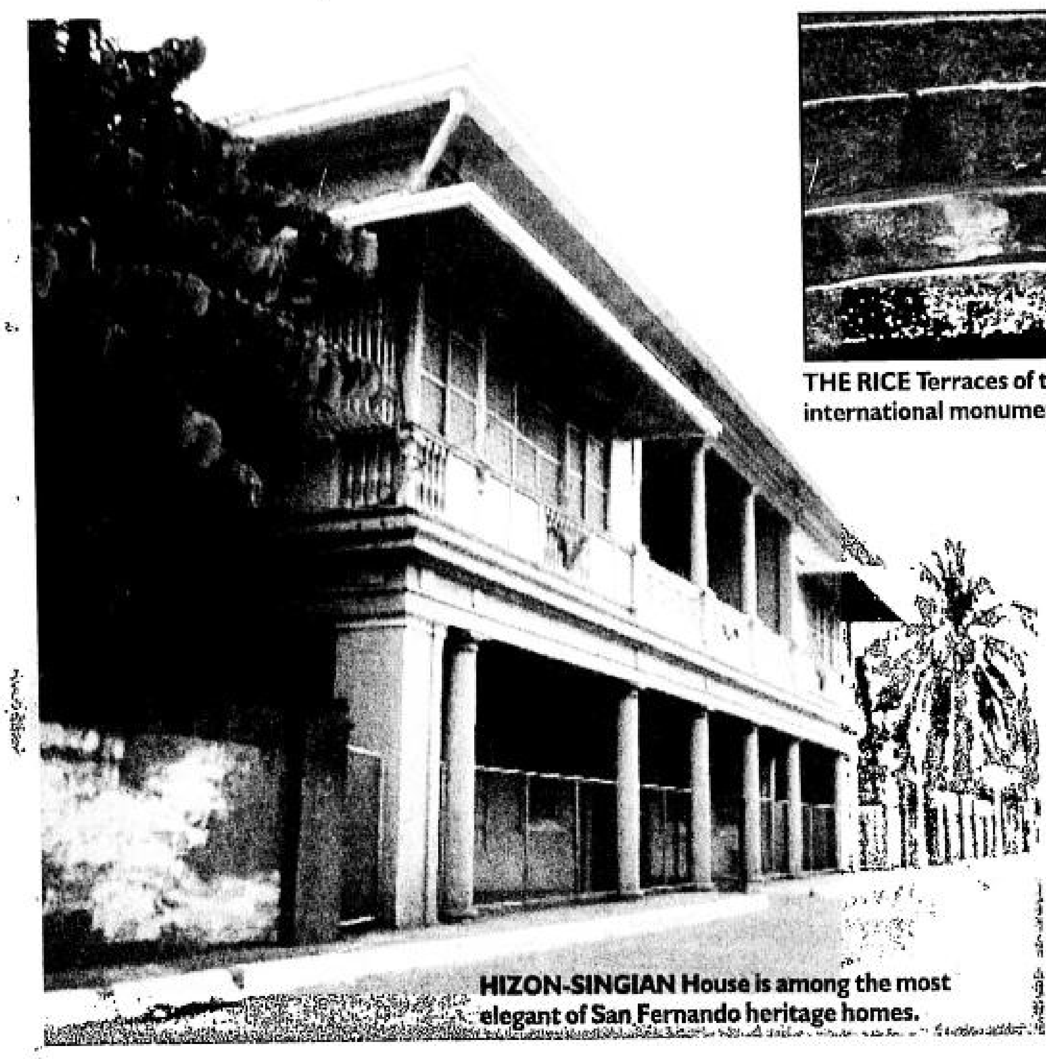
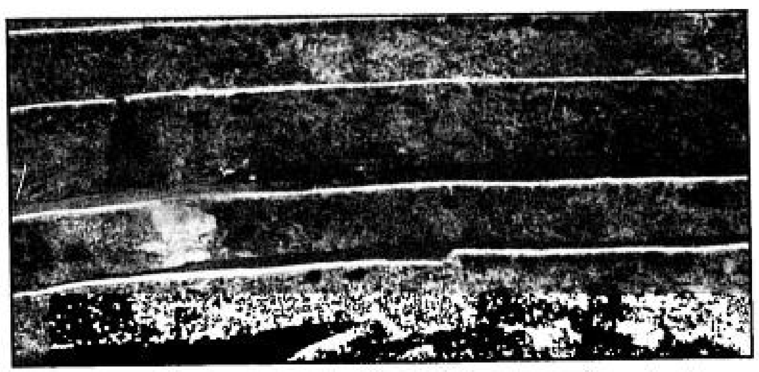
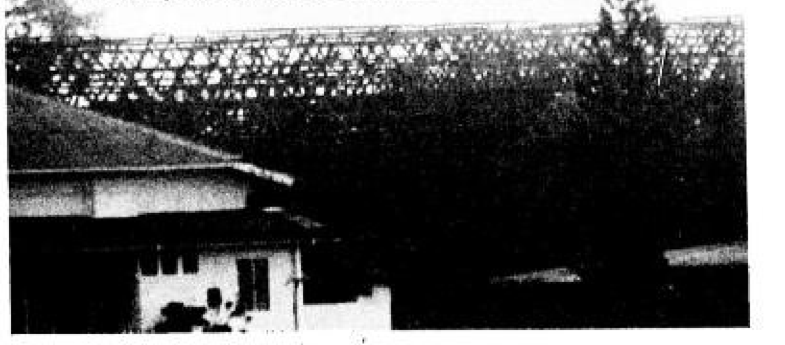


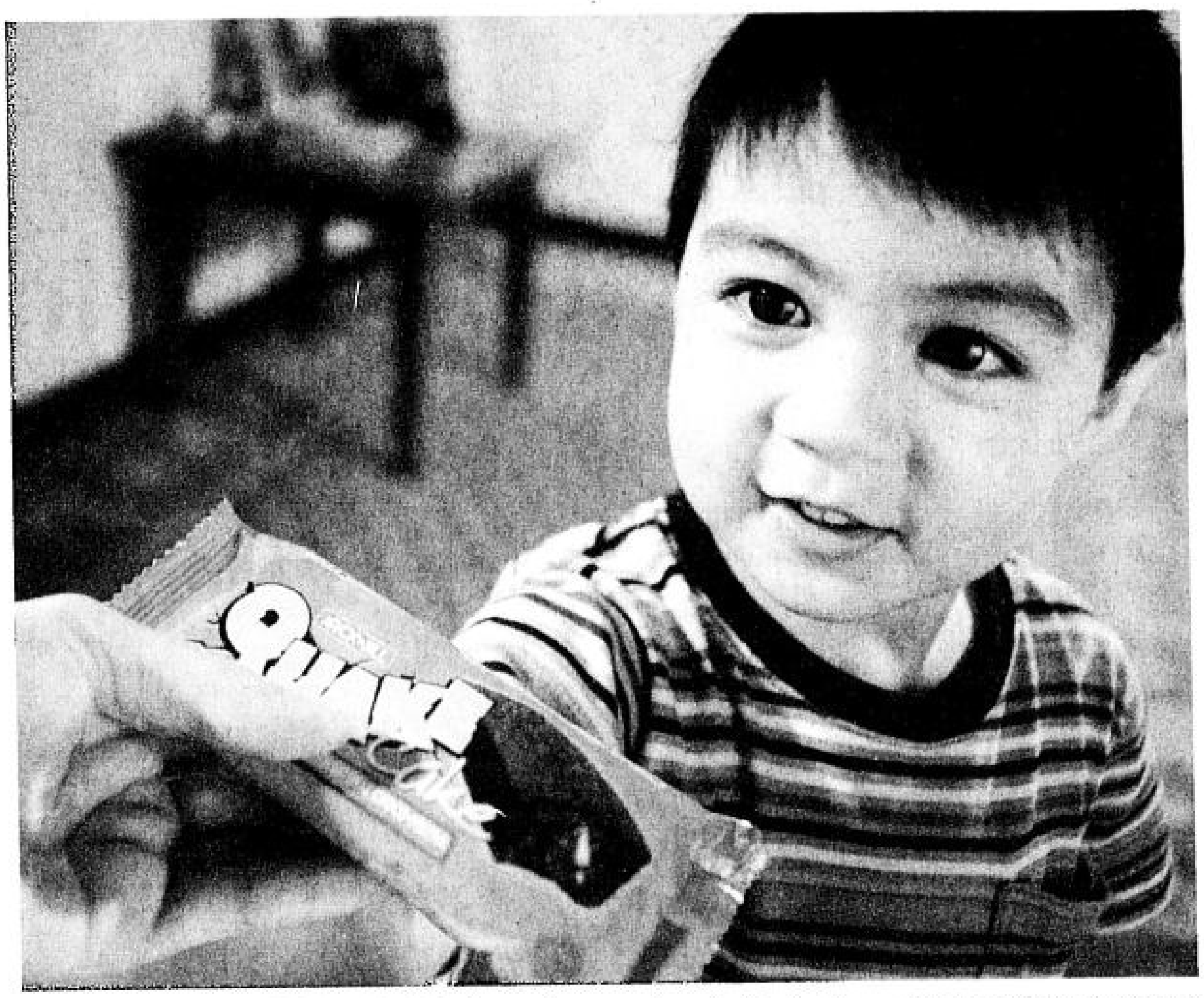
HIZON-SINGIAN House is among the most elegant of San Fernando heritage homes.



THE RICE Terraces of the Philippine Cordillera are an important international monument inscribed on the Unesco World Heritage List.

THE ORIGINAL roof of St. William's Cathedral in Laoag, which probably could have been saved, has unfortunately been replaced with a steel-framed modern roof.





LIFE'S OPENING UP for this little boy whose great curiosity for the world around him is starting to show as he reaches out for his favorite treat. *(Flip ahead to see the bigger picture.)*

Summer . . .

From page C1

its church and belfry sadly decapitated after the last major earthquake that hit the area.

Visit the town hall of Vintar on your way to Pasuquin which has a colonial watchtower. Ask locals for directions along the coast to the ruins of its old church standing beside the new church. In Burgos, visit the majestic Cape Bojeador lighthouse. Proceed to Bangui, the last town in Ilocos Norte to have any heritage interest, to see its small church.

Cross over to Cagayan Valley, visit the ruins of Pata in Claveria town and its lighthouse. Pamplona is a sleepy town with an old church.

For the truly daring, go to Apayao. In the towns of Pudtol and Capinatan are ruins of 16th century churches.

Cagayan Valley sights

Going down Cagayan Valley, pause and take photos on the Magapit Sur suspension bridge. The church of La-loc is interesting, so are the ruins of Calaminuigan whose bells are the oldest in the Philippines.

If you have the time, go to Buguey, its old church is beautiful and then drive further to Sta. Ana, the last town to the east of Cagayan where you can take a boat to Palaui Island. At its very tip is spectacular Cape Engaño lighthouse.

Going down the Manila North Road toward Tuguegarao, visit Alcala Church and Iguig with its ancient well and modern statues depicting the *estaciones* (stations of the cross).

Tuguegarao Church should not be missed. It is the biggest in the region, with stunning terra-cotta plaques on its walls. The small chapel of San Jacinto in Tuguegarao with its 18th-century *retablo* is a gem.

If you are planning on going to Piat, visit the ruins of Faire Church (sometimes called Tabang Church) and the old ruins of Piat church. Detour and visit Tuao to see its ancient belfry whose 18th-century lower foundations still stand.

Malaueg further west also is interesting. In Peñablanca, visit the Callao caves. If you happen to be there by dusk, watch out for droves of bats flying out of the caves.

In Isabela, visit the spectacular ruins of San Pablo or Cabanga Viejo Church, and the ruins of its cemetery along the national road.

Tumauini Church should not be missed. It has a serpentine fence, a circular belfry, and an interior that is a terra-cotta extravaganza.

Cordillera sights

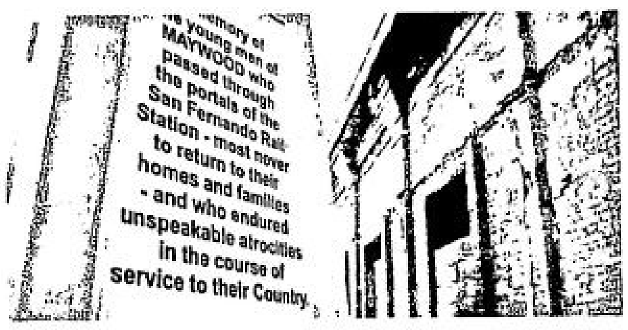
There are rice terraces in Banaue but hike to World Heritage site Batad where views are spectacular, the people friendly, and go on to see the other World Heritage terraces in Hapao, Hungduan and Kiangan.

On the way to Sagada, visit the 1907 Capitol Building in Bontoc. Farther up the hill behind it is Maligkong Rice Terraces.

Noche advises to take his two-week itinerary "*para* at least authentic *ang dating ng pag-baba-*backpacking *ninyo.*"

We tend to think that the farther away we explore (Ilocos and Cordillera), the more interesting and exotic the places would be. Places closer to Manila are equally rich.

Sony Ng of the HCS recounted a recent trip to Pampanga with a group of Filipinos, Swiss, Japanese, Korean, British, Nigerian, German and French members of the Museum Volunteers of the Philippines.



MARKER installed in the abandoned San Fernando train Station tells of the events that took place there during World War II.

Kapampangan heritage

She writes "Our first stop was appropriately the Center for Kapampangan Studies at the Holy Angel University where we were warmly welcomed not only by director Tantingco but by a *rondalla* as well.

"In San Fernando we visited the Archdiocesan Museum at the University of the Assumption—a repository of valuable Kapampangan religious articles and vestments.

"We sought out Roland Quiambao, whose giant Christmas lantern we witnessed last December winning the grand prize. He answered all our questions about the intricacies of his yearly production as well as his works for Enchanted Kingdom, malls, Christmas lights in various cities.

"On that hot day, predicted to have a temperature of 42 degrees, Razon's *halo-halo* helped us survive.

"A trip to San Fernando would not be complete if one does not visit its heritage houses. Unfortunately we had time only for two. And to our pleasant surprise—a band welcomed us in the Henson-Hizon House while a group of young boys and girls in colorful native attire sang and danced for us in the Hizon-Singian (Rodriguez) House. How the foreigners in our group loved the sight and sound.

"We were able to see the San Fernando train station, along the way to Betis and Bacolor, which we did not want to miss—Betis Church for its beautiful interior and Bacolor for its 'transformation from being the Athens of Pampanga into Pompei'—to quote our guide Arwin Lingat.

"The Kapampangans we met, including the local historian of Betis named Denden, are one in their deep pride of their province and heritage.

"We have a beautiful country and wonderful people," concludes Sony.

Heritage watch

Grupo Reposo, an association of business establishments on Reposo Street in Makati, will launch the first street festival, "Tibok Sining sa Reposo Makati," on May 27 with prominent artists painting a mural on the wall fronting Saint Andrew's Church.

On May 28 and 29, Reposo will be closed to traffic to allow pedestrians to wander around the stalls of an Arts, Crafts and Food Fair during the day, and, on the 28th, a free open-air concert with flamenco dancing, performances by the Ateneo dancers, St. Scholastica's Chamber of Music Quartet, jazz singer Cookie Chua and singer Bayang Barrios.

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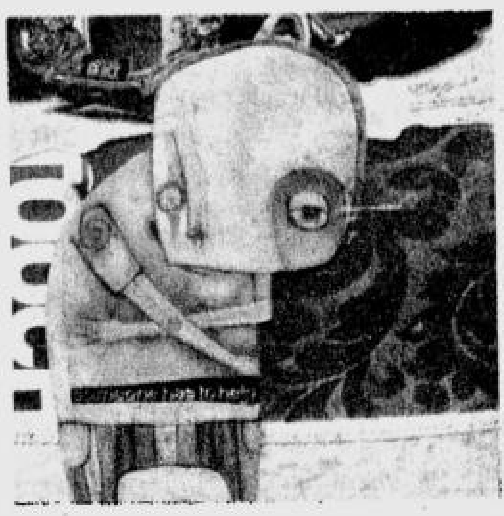
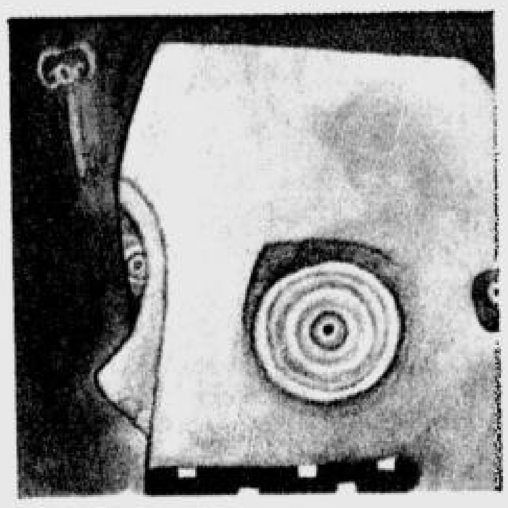


"HELP Me If You Can"



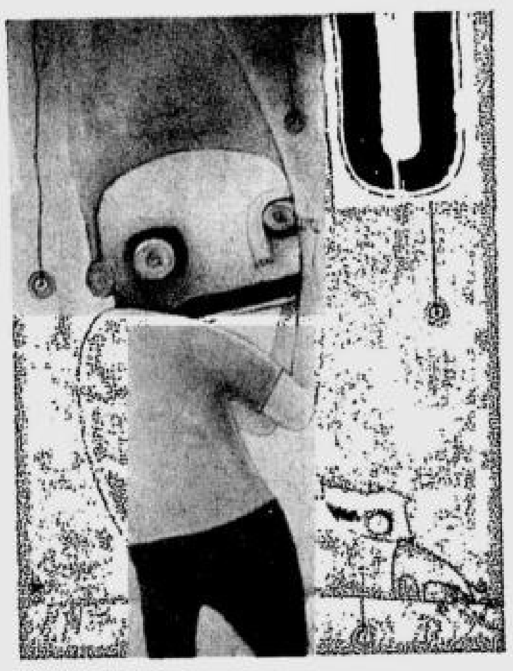
"DEAR God" 3

The next step for Farley del Rosario

The young man noted for his curious images gets going with his curious art

By James P. Ong
Contributor

"IT'S about pain, struggle and seeking guidance on where to go next," says Farley del Rosario. The son of an artist, the Olongapo-born painter graduated with a fine arts degree at Philippine Women's University held his first solo exhibition at the iconic Penguin Gallery Café in Malate early this year.



"YOU"

For "Where To?", Del Rosario's second solo exhibit that opens at Gallery Nine in SM Megamall this week, the 25-year-old reflects on the troubles and pain he's gone through in his relatively young life and how he deals with them.

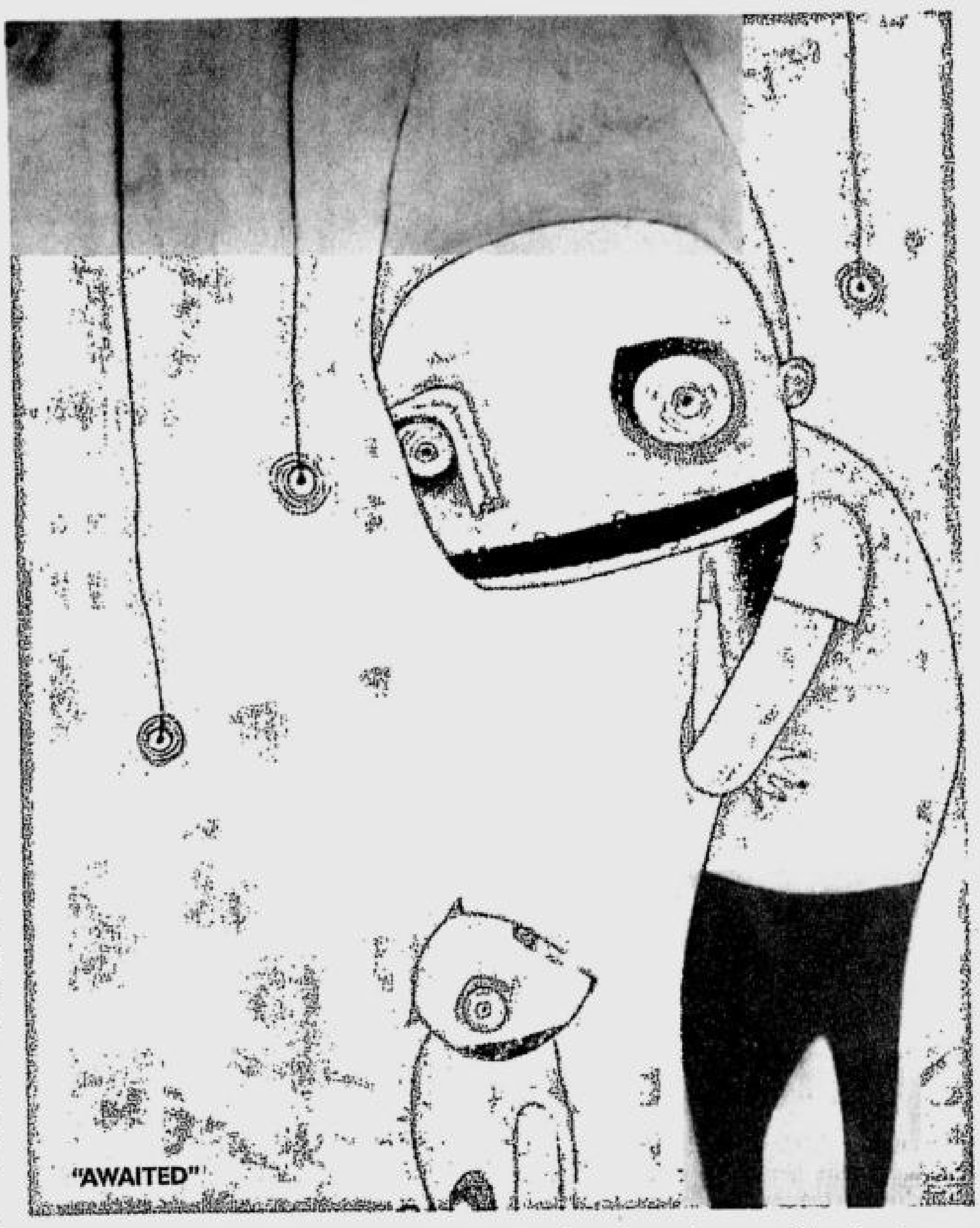
"The works were inspired by personal experience. I have problems and sometimes I don't know what to do, and so I always pray to God for a sign telling me what to do and where to go," he says.

Del Rosario started painting young. In elementary school, he would join art contests and get named artist of the year. In college, he joined the Shell National Student Art Competition, emerging as a finalist. He also represented PWU in the 15th PLDT Visual Art National Competition.

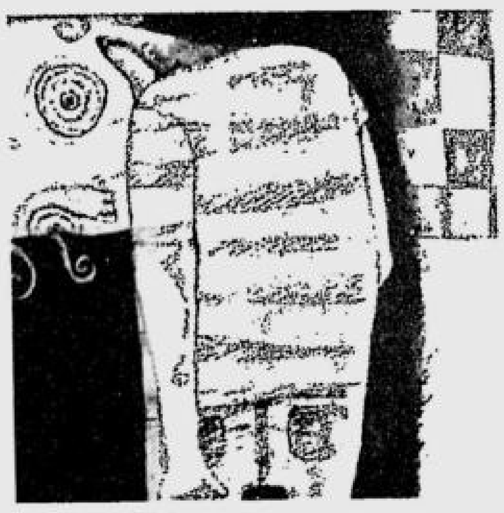
Mixed media

These days, the artist uses mostly mixed media in his works. "Anything I lay my hands on, and usually I don't buy. I like scrap materials, but I mostly use oil, metal, wood and fabric," he explains.

In "Where To?" he says he sought inspiration from the environment, friends and everyday problems encountered at work. Some problems, he reflects, are borne out of discontent and of wanting more than what one already has. We succeed, but in the end, we end up asking ourselves, what's next, he says.



"AWAITED"

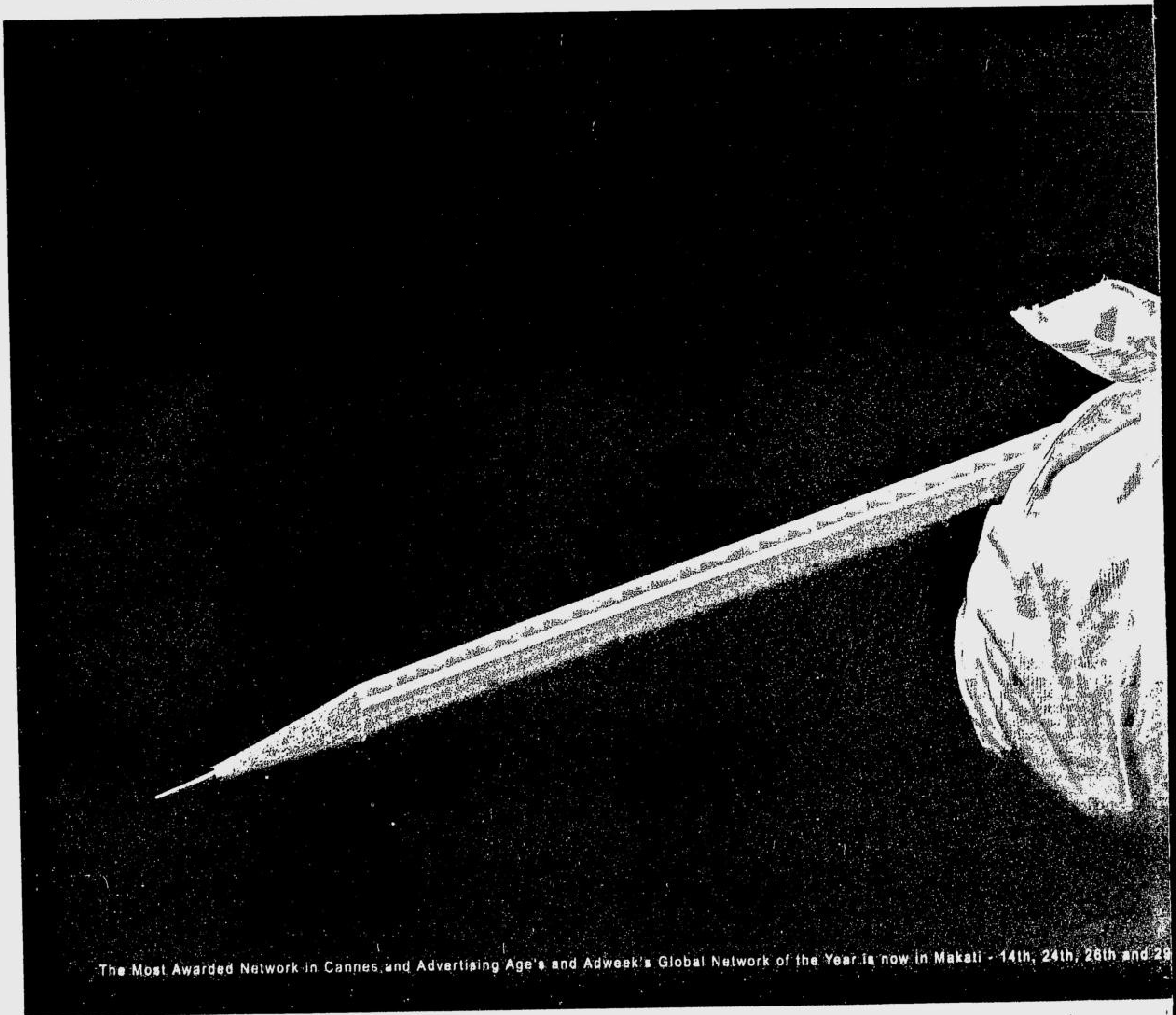


"DEAR God" 6

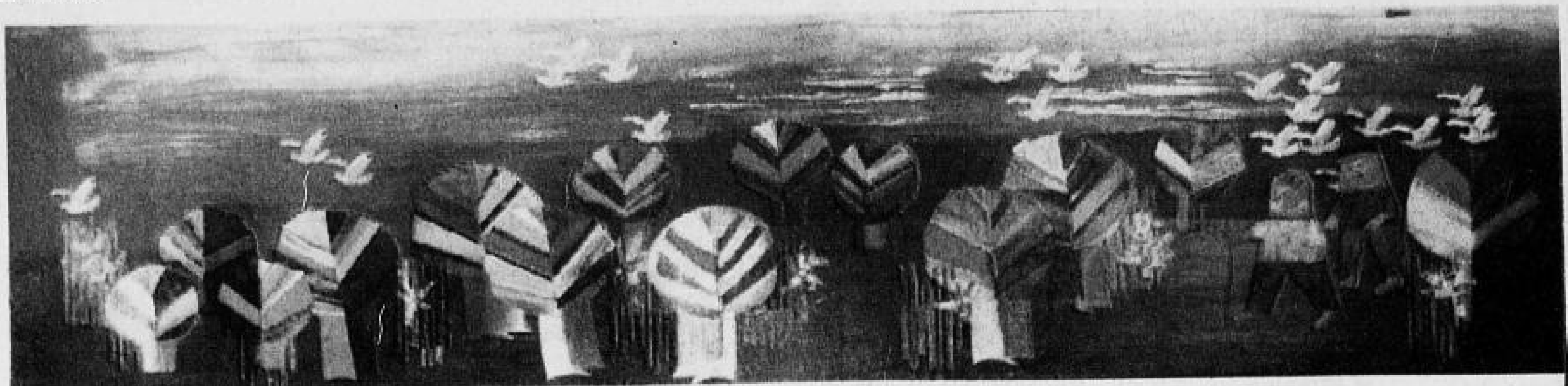
His paintings show images of a man who is confused and lost, looking for a way out or, like the artist, a divine sign. In "Come On," the face is semi-sad, semi-happy. On the edge of the painting, there is a figure who is offering a helping hand.

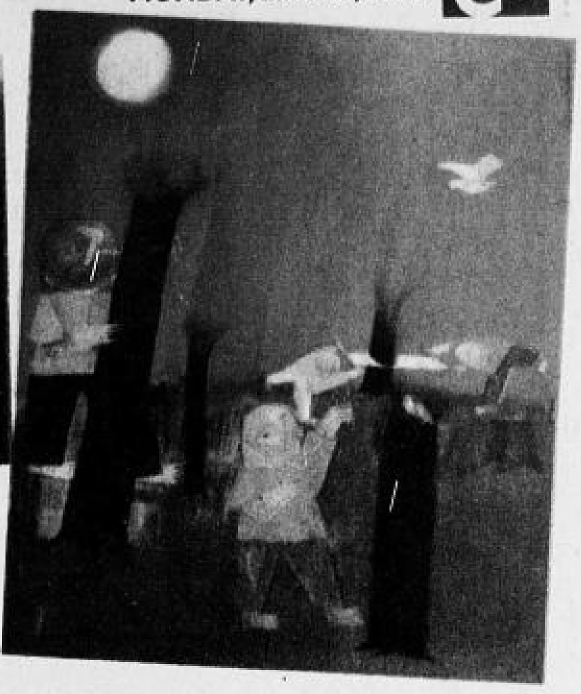
Another common metaphor Del Rosario uses is that of a key to represent a solution. "My works are a bit spiritual because, in reality, who we really need is God."

"Where To?", artworks by Farley del Rosario, shows from May 23-31 at Gallery Nine (SM Megamall, tel. 6877302).



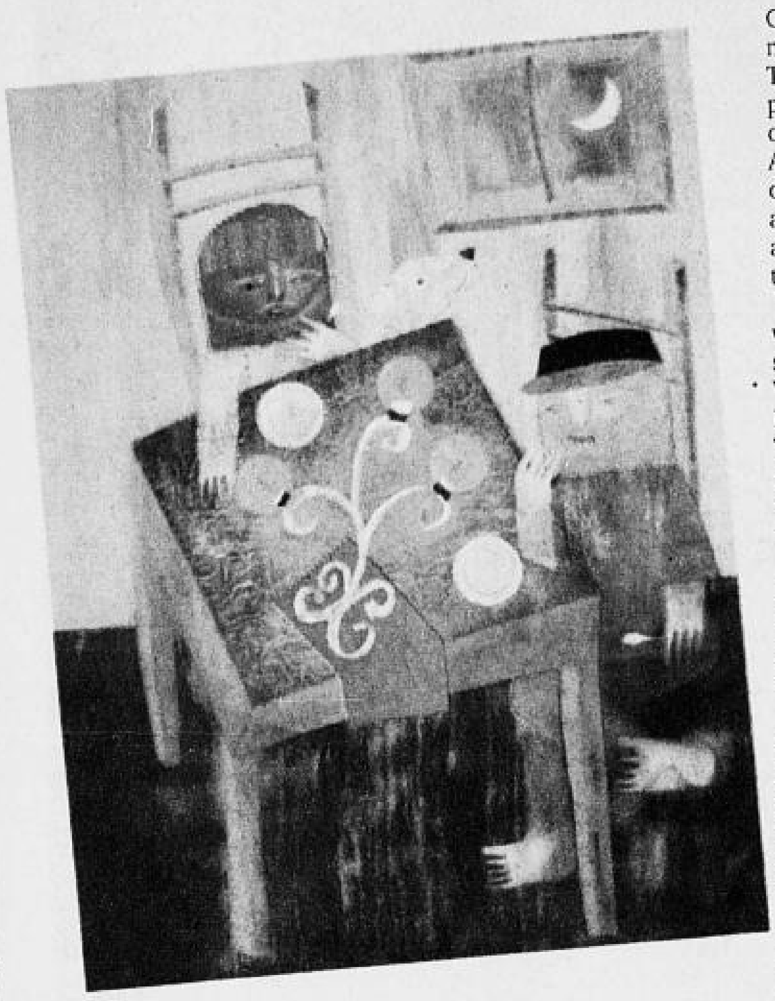
The Most Awarded Network in Cannes and Advertising Age's and Adweek's Global Network of the Year is now in Makati - 14th, 24th, 26th and 29





"SIGNS of Renewal" (above) and "Devastation" I (right)

Forbes children's book artworks on sale



"AROUND the Dinner Table"

CANVAS proudly announces "Elias and His Trees," the highly anticipated first solo exhibition of artist Romeo Forbes. All pieces (acrylic and oil on canvas paintings) will appear as illustrations for a new children's book of the same title.

"Elias and His Trees" was inspired by the classic eco-fable, "The Man Who Planted Trees" by French writer Jean Giono. The book is a refreshing adaptation by Palanca-winning children's book writer Augie Rivera.

The opening of the art exhibition and the book launching will be held at the Glorietta 4 Art Center at 6 p.m. on June 13.

This project was made possible by the support of the French Embassy in Manila (as part of its annual French Spring in Manila), UST Publishing House, and The Artery.

Interested buyers may call 0917-8906160 for previewing appointments.

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LIFE'S COOL. Despite the blazing heat, these kids enjoy a classic game of jump rope in the cool shade provided by the large billboard. *(Flip ahead to see the bigger picture.)*

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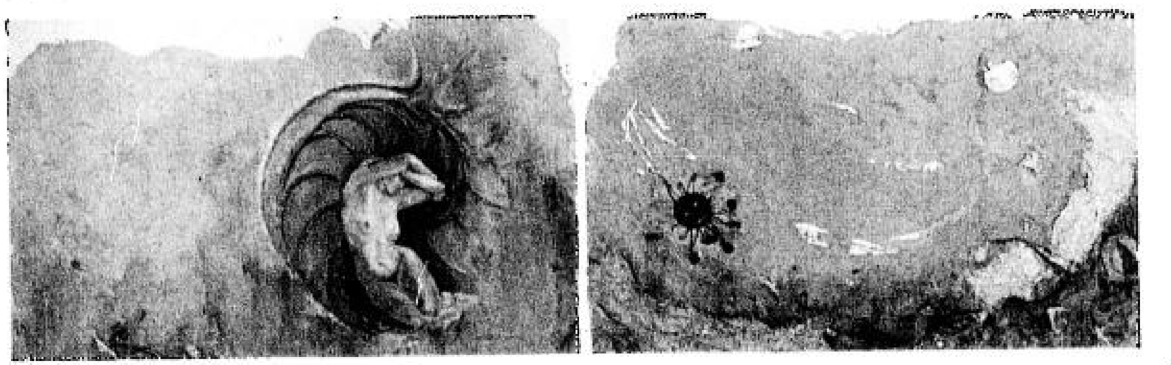
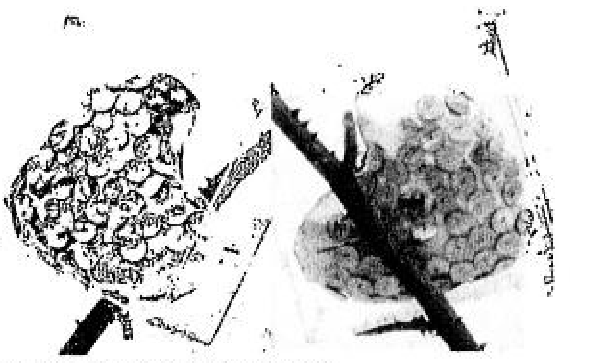
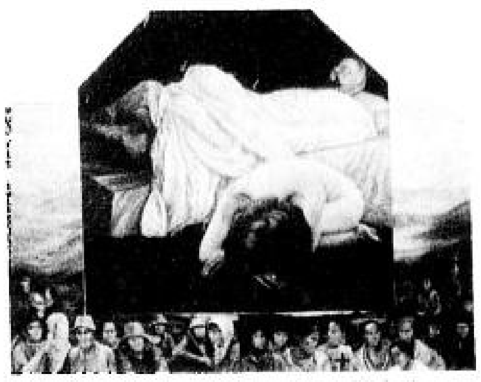


"AFTER the Storm," by Deborah Del-Pan



"TWIN Heart," by Allison David



"BULONG ng Alon," by Renato Habulan

Out of the box—into the world

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

A RADICAL departure from the surfeit of collaborative shows we have been getting lately has been organized by SR stalwart-turned mentor Renato Habulan for his advance art class. With its cryptic title, "Arkuiris" is intended as a work in progress involving the process of literally breaking out of the "box."

Thus, when he and his four exceptionally talented students—Allison David, Deborah Del-Pan, Molly Yap and Teresita Mapua—embarked on the project, the group set their sights on transforming themselves as artists with the use of boxes, symbolizing the change one goes through in pursuit of artistic passion.

The four women artists had previously put up a show, "Weaving in Revolt," at the GSIS Museo ng Sining last year, while Habulan stopped teaching to concentrate anew on his painting career. "Arkuiris," which, in Spanish, means "rainbow," is intended to bridge the gap between what all these artists, mentor and wards, had originally dared to be and what has since become of them, at the end of the rainbow, so to speak.

A magnificent show this truly is, considering that these late-blooming women artists had decided to pursue art rather belatedly in their lives, and, armed only with their own instincts and erudition, dared set out on a path not yet trodden. But with a dedicated and inspiring teacher at the helm, each one of these women has been transformed. Each one has a wealth of ideas to convey even with the rather diminutive box format of 8" x 8" canvas that they have agreed to work on.

It is, of course, to Habulan's credit as mentor that he chose to give his wards plenty of room to toy with, both with the small if diminutive sizes and the mural-size format, as in the case of Mapua, whose trademark triptych format virtually occupies an entire wall of the SM Art Center.

Habulan's suite is fittingly kicked off by the mural "Bulong ng Alon," a tableau which shows a virtual sea of humanity on the threshold of change, a powerfully symbolic work operating on many levels, with its allusions to catastrophes that have engulfed people's lives.

With his powerful poetic-mythical rendering, Habulan has created a disturbing "Via Crucis" for our time.

Collective illusions

Another series, "Tinawas na Bukas," harps on our collective illusions for instant solutions rather than adopting long-term plans for a better life.

The "Takatak Series" is mainly inspired by the box parlayed by ambulant cigarette vendors but ingeniously transformed to reflect the very prism of life, mainly with the candle drippings that, in their manifold hues, seem to glow and glisten.

Allison David, bless her wildly expressionist soul, shows her trademark primeval figures all coiled up in fetal poise, and electronically backlighted to reveal the tantric flow of energy. These works are reflective of the basic tenets of tantra, which must start at the cosmic plane and finally arrive at the understanding of the human body and its properties.

A disciple of Tantrism, which is a system of rediscovering the mystery of the woman, David has also assembled an installation, "Hearts." The human heart is conceived and presented in 13 modern installations, with their titles a virtual giveaway of their states, from "Bleeding Heart" to "Tortured Heart." It is David's unique gifts at invention and assemblage using a variety of media that endear her to gallerygoers.

Deborah Del-Pan, also working without letup even within the confines of the box mode, has a huge solitary work titled "After the Storm," a diptych which is also an eloquent meditation on the recent tsunami tragedy that claimed lives in various parts of Southeast Asia. With her trademark female figures in repose, Del-Pan has mapped out a relief surface of a giant nautilus from where a naked female is ensconced, her version of Venus rising, suggesting the theme of rebirth from a modernist standpoint.

An artist who values space as she does the main figure, Del-Pan has a mystical and poetic eye to guide her image-making, an emerging sensibility that is at her beck and call whenever she explores themes of alienation, desolation and exile.

Of the four, it is Molly Yap, who has stubbornly stuck to her characteristically cheery disposition even when confronted by tragic events.

In "Hope," she has a number of planar pieces configured to fit into an ensemble, with the woman figure emerging from the center.

Yap is an admirably skillful still-life artist, and though she is now slowly evolving with her orientation, the transition may not be that easy. We can only wish she moved into her new stage with the least of troubles.

Looming large

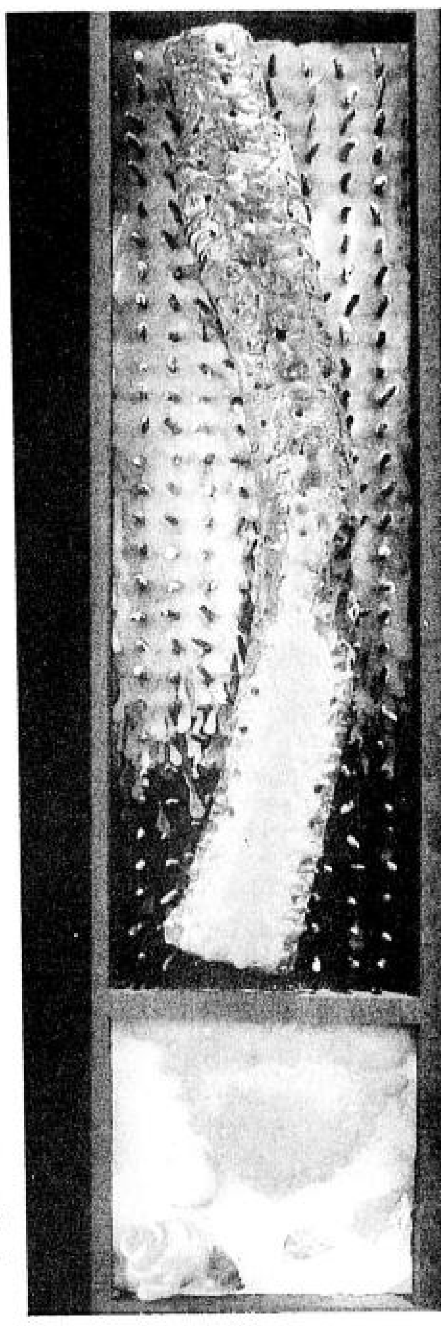
And, finally, there is Teresita Mapua, whose works loom large and menacing in the show. An irreverent soul who reinvents her materials as she does her views of religion, Mapua reveals her experimentation is far from over as she has assembled a cache of images that all at once disturb, tease and provoke.

From her own share of boxed images where she posits her New Age beliefs (ecology, recycling, Gandhi-like posturing, etc.) to her truly monumental work, titled "Ave Maria Diaspora, Babalik na ang Grasya," which is, strictly, a modern-day retablo in triptych format, with the two angels as Pinay OFWs clutching cell phones, and with Mary emerging from a cocoon of plastic finery.

Mapua is the consummate installation artist whose irreverent soul continues to redefine the Pinoy's battered psyche. She has not only gone out of her box but has ventured far into the past and to the future, merging new materials and techniques, and creating a tapestry of images that may show us the way to our redemption as a people.

"Arkuiris" is ongoing at SM Cebu's Art Center until today, with the participation of Cebuano artists Jesse Rona and Palmy Pe-Tudtud. It will be seen next in SM Davao, in July, with artists' collective in the city participating, then in Boracay, SM Iloilo, Dumaguete, SM Baguio, and will culminate at the Cultural Center of the Philippines at yearend. Every stop of the art caravan will be highlighted by a workshop.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo @yahoo.com



"TAKATAK," 2 by Renato Habulan

SATURDAY Group exhibit in Davao. Opening with guests and Davao artists

Rediscovering Davao and the durian

By Merci Melchor
Contributor

TRAVELING in big groups has its drawbacks. There is always the risk of lost tickets, missing luggage or co-travelers whose faculties lack a sense of direction. However, there are many advantages to these out-of-town trips especially if a certain "Mr. M" heads the delegation. We receive more media coverage, more dinner invitations to private homes and even freebies from Cebu Pacific and Davao's Royal Mandaya Hotel. Mr. M is, of course, the Saturday Group's adviser and top artist, Mauro "Malang" Santos!

At a news conference, a young reporter asked how it felt to be back in Davao again. Abstract painter/writer Migs Villanueva aptly put it—"We feel that Davao is almost home to us. We love the beach, the durian fruit. We love everything about Davao, especially the people we meet here. It is also another venue for us to show our talents" and "to shop at Aldevincol" continued Lydia Veto lightheartedly. Hearing this, Malang remarked—"*Hoy*—we're to do three things: conduct a workshop, hold our third Davao exhibit, and meet our Davao counterparts. *Saka na ang* shopping!"

Held at the Seagull Beach Resort, the workshop was a great success. Providing education for poor children in her neighborhood, Beth Dureza gathered 20-30 artistically-inclined pupils from the Diego Silang Elementary School, a public school in Matina Aplaya. These were later joined by 20 Bantay Bata wards from the Davao Chapter, under the care of Pia Carabuena.

It was heartwarming to see the smiling faces of the children. They eagerly greeted us—especially Fernando Sena who conducted the whole-day workshop assisted by good friend, Ben Infante.

Starting with the basics—line, shape, color and proportion—Nanding had the children drawing still-life and landscapes before the day was over. So skillful and effective a tutor was he that the young crowd clamored for another session the following day.

Later that evening, we held our exhibit, "Impressions of Davao II," along the long impressive hallway of the Royal Mandaya Hotel. A total of 49 art pieces were shown—works done by Malang, Reilly Boquireen, Cris Cruz, Buds Convocar, Jake Blanco, Caña, Ben Infante, Alpha Larracas, Anna de Leon, Wilson Ma, Nik Masangcay, Merci Melchor, Roel Obemio, Ernie Patricia, Roland Santos, Fernando Sena, Bing Siochi, Sheila Tiangco, Lydia Velasco and Migs Villanueva.

Completing the group was Ophie Dee of Gallery 828 as curator and very supportive friend of the Saturday Group.

Part of the proceeds of the exhibit will be for the benefit of the needy students of Diego Silang, a pet project of Beth Dureza.

The following day was "Araw ng Dabaw." The whole of Davao—all of 244,000 hectares—was celebrating its 68th anniversary, having been formally inaugurated as a charter city in March 16, 1937 by the late President Elpidio Quirino.

To commemorate the event, we went back to the Seagull Beach Resort for swimming, chatting and painting with a few Davao artists—George So, Boboy Buenaventura, Abe Garcia and Bryan Cabrera, to name a few.

Later that evening, all inhibitions disappeared. And to further add to the merriment, some of us went "*indak-indak sa daan*" (street dancing). Others sat around Mandaya's lobby and sang popular love songs to the delight of the hotel staff and guests. It was a good evening and it had been a good day. Many talents were discovered, many friendships made.

We soon discovered that most Davaoeños—especially our many hosts—are durian lovers. To them, eating durian is an art. So we were introduced to this fruit in all forms, shapes and color—durian caramel candy, durian pastilles, durian suman, durian ice cream, durian ice drop, durian shake and durian delight (a concoction of the pulpy fruit and gin).

We were well aware that smuggling the repugnant smelling fruit through customs could pose a problem. A nun I met during our exhibit whispered to me, "Inday, just wrap it in many layers of damp newspaper and put it in your suitcase."

On our last day, and with last minute shopping done, we rushed to the airport and our flight back home. Waving goodbye to our Davao hosts, we saw that dear, little nun and her innocent-looking "bayong" calmly pass through customs with the aura of a guiltless angel!

'Engage' at Ateneo, Payawal at West, junior museum tour at UP

VISUAL ARTS

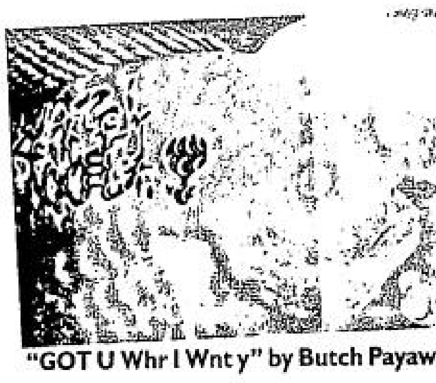
BUTCH Payawal integrates his fondness for dilapidated stones and flower horns in "Lucid Dreams," which is on view on May 26-June 7 at West Gallery, Megamall A. Call 6341284.

THE ATENEO Art Gallery and the Embassy of Romania are holding "Engage: Contemporary Paintings from the Embassy Collection" on May 31-July 8 at the main and new galleries of Ateneo. Call 4266488 (Ateneo) or 8439014 (Romanian Embassy).

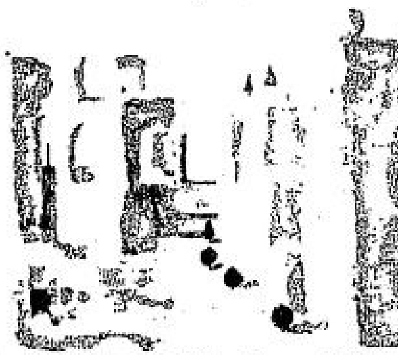
THE JAPAN Foundation, Manila and Ayala-Greenbelt Malls present the "8th Asian Cartoon Exhibition: The Meaning of Life" on June 3-10 at the ground lobby of Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati. The traveling exhibit will showcase 88 works produced by 13 leading cartoonists from China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand and the Philippines. Call 8116155 to 58.

WITH the theme "Museums Bridging Cultures," the UP Vargas Museum had an open day recently during Museum Day with free entrance and guides around the museum collections and special exhibits such as photojournalist Jose Enrique Soriano's photographs of a mental asylum, artworks by seven young graduates of the UP College of Fine Arts and wall installations of jeepney routes that ply the areas around the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman by artist-in-residence Yumi Janairo Roth. Participants of Fernando B. Sena's art classes also toured the Museum on their last session for the summer.

Believing in children as museum stakeholders and helping bridge the generations, the Vargas Museum also launched its Junior Museum Guides program to be participated by 15 students from ages 8 to 11 years old. The activities planned for the workshop to be held from May 23 to 28 include art appreciation, sculpture making, safety in the museum, and art and archives conservation for young people. At the end of the workshop, the junior guides will tour museum visitors and launch their illustrated guide to the Vargas Museum. Call Linda Pabico at 9281927.



"GOT U Whr I Wnt y" by Butch Payawal



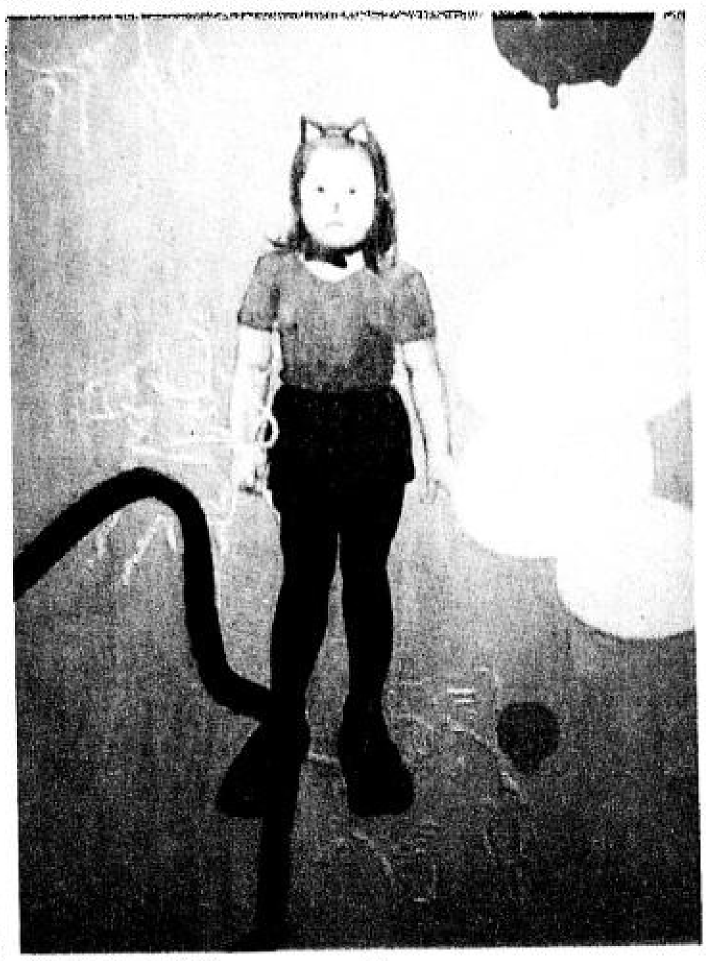
"MANGINGISDA," by Bernard Vista

THE BEST works of the participants of the 2005 Summer Positivism Workshop will be exhibited to raise funds for streetchildren and for free art lessons to be conducted by E. R. Tagle. The same workshop will be held on June 5, 10:30 a.m. at Walter Mart Makati, Chino Roces Ave. and Arnaiz St.

ADMAN Alex Gantioqui's first solo exhibit opens on May 25, 6 p.m. at the 7/F, Mervin 2000 building, Balagtas corner Vito Cruz Extension. The exhibit will feature 22 pieces of oil pastel on felt paper. Call 8992308 or 09277983007.

RICCO-RENZO Gallery presents Danny Sillada's "Everything & Nothingness" on May 26-June 27 at LRI Business Plaza, 210 N. Garcia St., Bel Air II, Makati. Call 8982542 to 43.

TAM P. Austria, artist, author and advocate of Recreaminboism Rena philosophy conducted a lecture and gathered appreciative testimonial affirmation embarking in art with fine arts students of the University of New Zealand in Oakland, New Zealand recently. Shown with the artist are the students of the University of New Zealand and his daughter Christine.



"CLIFF jumper" 2

New paintings by Yasmin Sison at UFO

PAINTER par excellance Yasmin Sison exhibits her most recent works at the UFO Gallery in a show dubbed "Reading for Beginners."

Sison, whose paintings hang in distinguished collections here and abroad—among them the Singapore Art Museum's collection of contemporary Asian art—again takes on the themes of memory and fiction. This time, however, she layers into the works a good deal of pop fun and adventure.

Images of children clad in costumes or engaged in some form of activity are juxtaposed with other imagery to produce a sense of tension, flight and flux.

"Although in some of the works the children (seem to be) involved in risk or danger, there is a sense of freedom—a sense of the children following their bliss," says Sison.

These new works, at once introspective and celebratory, reflect the artist's own inner world and most recent concerns; she is the new mother of her first child with husband and fellow artist Mariano Ching.

"Reading for Beginners" runs on May 28-June 25. UFO Gallery (tel. 7220305; at 85 Araullo St., Addition Hills, San Juan) is open Tuesday-Saturday, 12:30-7:30 p.m.

Tribute to agriculture

SOME 50 paintings from 20 of Manila's top contemporary artists have been assembled in an art exhibit to pay tribute to the gallant men and women from agriculture and fisheries.

Titled "Masaganang Ani" (Bountiful Harvest), the exhibit opens on May 26 at 7 p.m. at Galerie Joaquin-Main to commemorate National Heritage Month and Farmers and Fisherfolks Month.

Leading the list of major artists are Angelito Antonio, who will have a 30" x 40" collector's piece done in a cubist passion titled "The Fish Harvest."

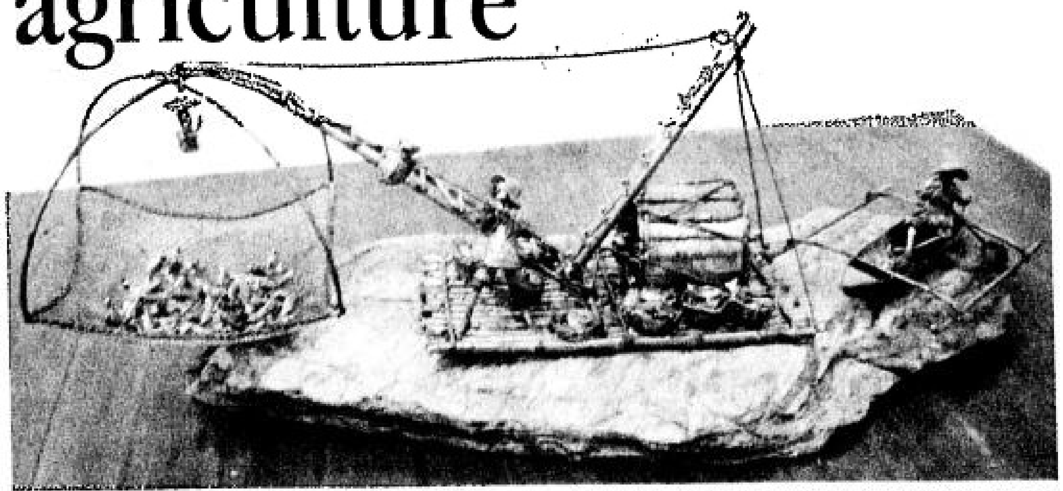
Mario Parial made three paintings especially for this exhibit, including a 30" x 40" piece titled "Masaganang Ani."

Tam Austria's work is a 24" x 18" piece titled "Himig ng Kasaganaan" (Song of Abundance). Norma Belleza will have four 16" x 20" paintings of various harvest scenes.

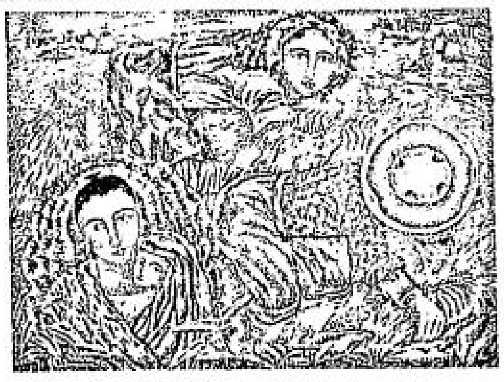
Other participating artists are Andi Cubi, Karina Baluyut, Eileen Escueta, Joey Herrera, Carlo Magno, Jerry Morada, Mario Parial, Roniño Quinto, Vincent de Pio, Bayani Ray Acala, Juvenal Sanso, Felix Tiglao, Lydia Velasco, Bernard Vista, Manny Yarte and Rellie Liwag.

Sculptor Michael Cacnio, who will have a major one-man show in Singapore next month, is represented by the 39" x 16" x 13" "Sa Lambao" and the 24" x 16" x 8.5" "Fish Harvest."

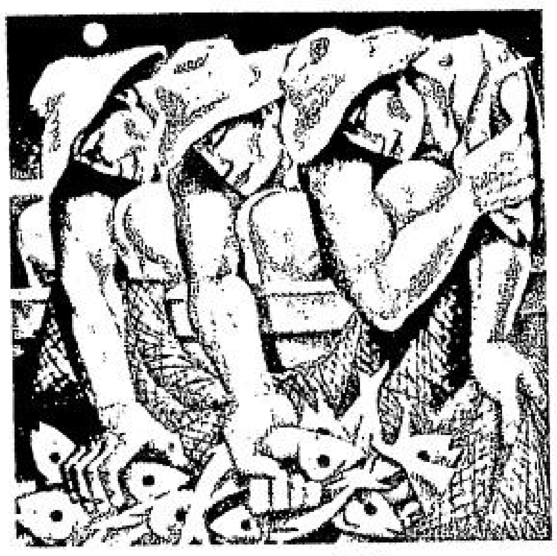
Galerie Joaquin-Main is located at 371 P. Guevarra St. and Montessori Lane, Addition Hills, San Juan. Call 7239253 or 7239418, or visit www.galeriejoaquin.com. The exhibit runs until June 12.



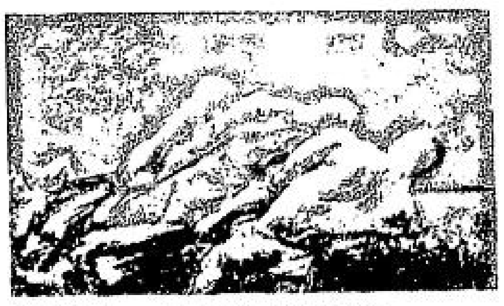
"SA LAMBAO," by Cacnio



"MASAGANANG Ani," by Mario Parial



"MANGINGISDA," by Bernard Vista



"FISH Harvest," by Vincent de Pio

Art and crafts sale on Reposo, Makati

THE LRI Business Plaza on Nicanor Garcia St. (formerly Reposo) in Makati City, with its furniture showrooms, galleries and other establishments, will have a mid-year sale from May 26 to June 6. The LRI will be open for two Sundays, May 29 and June 5, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m..

The second floor of the business building will hold a sale of home decor at 30-percent discount.

The Mandy Navasero Photo Studio will offer discounts for individual and family portraits.

Ed Soler of Gruppo Reposo is holding "Tibok Sining sa Reposo" on May 27 to 29. The Blumentritt Group of artists will hold a mural painting of the wall fronting St. Andrew's Church.

There will be a simultaneous launch of art exhibits and sale in Galerie Astra, Gallery BiG, Artwalk Gallery, Ricco-Renzo Gallery and ARIAS Gallery of Bobby Nuestro.

A street fair along the stretch of Reposo St. between Constellation and Jupiter Sts. will feature arts, crafts and food on May 28 to May 29.

The Alliance Francaise will hold art lectures on May 28: "Critique on Modern Philippine Art" by Cid Reyes; "Art Exchange Between France and the Philippines" by Philippe Normand; "The Artist and His Art" by Egai Fernandez; and "Active Imagination: Art and Psyche" by Rose Marie Yenko.

In the evening, there will be performances by the Company Dancers of Grupo Flamenco de Señor Gomez, Ateneo Dancers, St. Scholastica's College Chamber of Music Quartet and Cookie Chua.

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'MY Fair Lady' in Iloilo /D2

KAWAYAN de Guia

BENCAB

Pianist Oliver Salonga plays at the Baguio Country Club this weekend

OLIVER Salonga

Baguio as a concert destination

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

SEVENTEEN years ago in 1988, I thought of Baguio not just as a refuge from summer heat but as a place where you can listen to Bach and Beethoven at 11,000 ft above sea level.

And so I founded the First Baguio International Music Festival with tenor Otoniel Gonzaga opening it before Christmas and with Cecile Licad and cellist Antonio Meneses closing it before New Year.

I tried to make it a regular attraction, but lack of sponsorship made me settle for holding special concerts only when resources were available. I brought in a Chopin competition winner at Dap-ayan Hall in 1989, but never got to repeat it especially since the big earthquake of 1990 struck Baguio.

To be sure, the idea was not new. The late MSO conductor Herbert Zipper told me he founded a similar Baguio music festival in 1948 but it didn't become a regular event.

Last year, I went back to Baguio with Cecile Licad. A full grand piano had to be brought from Manila to Baguio.

That big crowd at the CAP-Camp John Hay Cultural Center reminded me of the big ecstatic crowd of 1988 at the St. Louis University Auditorium where a half-kilometer queue gathered outside the school in what must be Baguio's first major piano and cello event (Meneses had just won the Gold Medal at the Tchaikovsky Competition at the time).

Standing ovation

After Licad's return engagement, I brought in a new face from the UST Conservatory of Music, soprano Joan Cano with tenor Lemuel de la Cruz and flutist GJ Herman Gomez with Mary Anne Espina accompanying. The tenor had a problem with his voice and the soprano ended up adding one more song after another to cover for the tenor's part. The concert ended in another standing ovation, which convinced me Baguio was enamored with the arts.

How did the arts fare in Baguio in the past decades?

There used to be active music teachers at St. Louis University and St. Theresa's College (now phased out in Baguio). But now there are only few teachers, and music courses no longer exist on local curriculum.

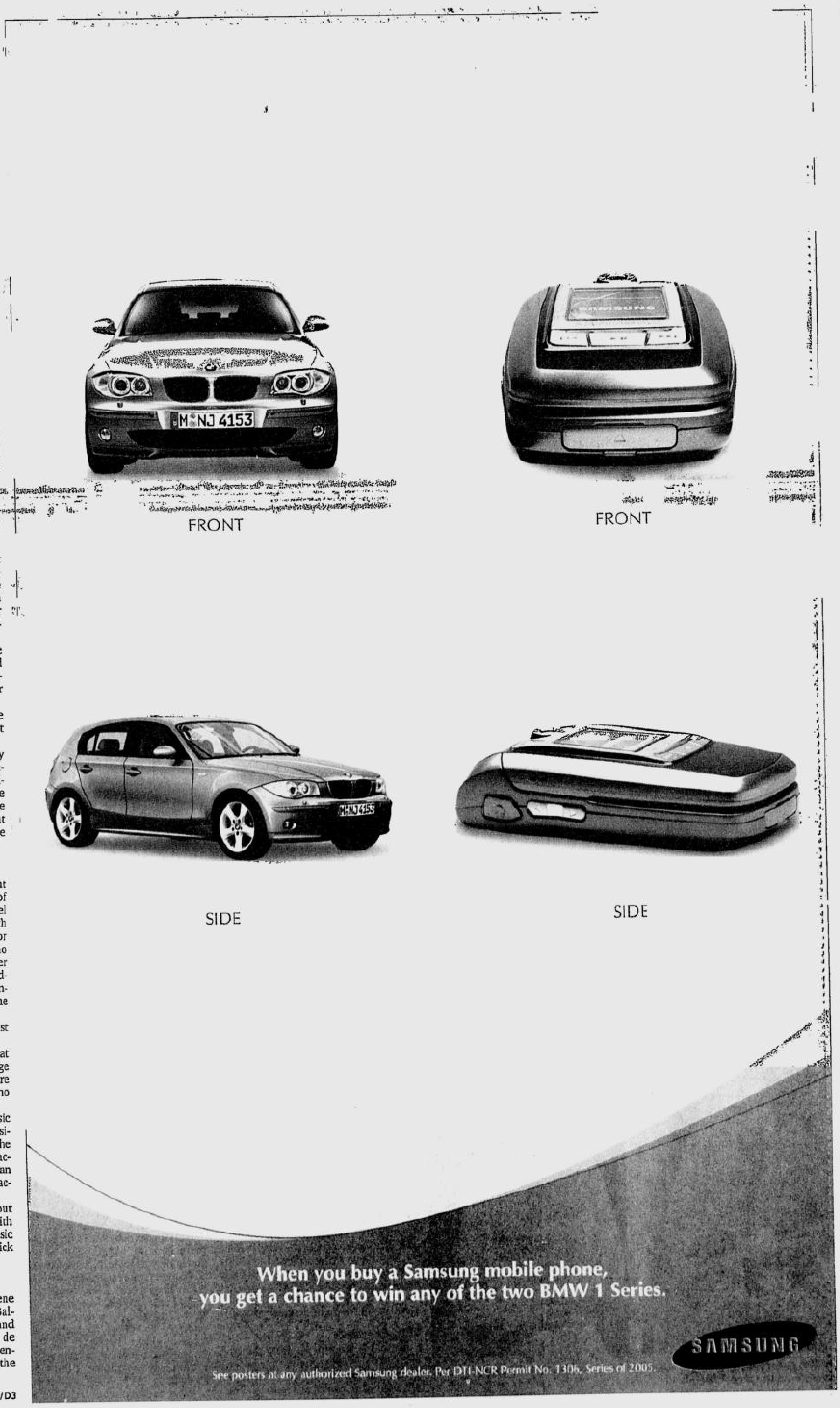
A long-time Baguio resident and music teacher, Divina A. Bautista, recalls that classical music was at its best in Baguio from the '60s to the early '80s. Music schools were active, there was a concert season at Dap-ayan Hall, international artists came and she accompanied some of them.

The audiences remain enthusiastic but training of young artists got stalled with teachers and students turning to pop music for quick results (read: instant fame and quick return of musical investments).

Baguio artists

Apart from Bautista, Baguio's music scene has tenor John Gaerlan and soprano Kay Balajadia; in the visual arts, it has BenCab and Kawayan de Guia. Kidlat Tahimik (Eric de Guia) remains Baguio's film icon and one Jenny Velarde takes up the cause of dance in the city.

BAGUIO/ D3



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Of string beans and string ensembles

By Lynett A. Villariba

SHELTERED from noise and pollution by a canopy of coconut trees and a lush landscape of flowing waters and garden walks, guests retreat into the quiet of the inner self to listen to the reverberating sound of life to find a life beyond life. (Be zen to figure that one out.)

Healthy dishes for the body and hearty music for the soul blended a la carte at a health resort in Lipa, Batangas, away from the madding crowd.

Chamber music was employed for the first time as a natural holistic method by the Farm at San Benito, which only recently was adjudged Best Holistic Healing Programme by Spa Asia. The method is believed to restore the body to a balance within natural law, or homeostasis.

The "Loveliest Night of the Year" began with a promenade through garden walks amid new age sounds of bubbling fountains and flowing waters. The audience later settled down to a pre-concert gourmet dinner leading to "Some Enchanted Evening" under the stars at the amphitheater.

Produced and directed by Hartwig Herold, the Rubato Ensemble provided musical strings of five violins, two violas, two cellos and a keyboard to the love songs "If I Loved You" and "Maalala Mo Kaya" rendered by two tenors and two sopranos.

Fourteen musical artists serenaded health resort guests with a baroque rendering of favorites from "Blue Danube Waltz" to "Climb Every Mountain." Later, guests were humming "I Could Have Danced All Night" all the way to their well-appointed villas.

THE MORNING after the concert, the young artists led by their concert master (in red, front row) go back to their day lives as your regular *barkada*. Impressario Hartwig Herold is third from left.

SOME enchanted evening under quiet stars (left), the string ensemble played "Loveliest Night of the Year."

If the morning meditation lessened stress, slowed down heart rate and induced the relaxation, so did the evening music leave guests feeling healthier, happier, more positive.

Revelation

The morning after was a revelation. Guests learned that the Baroque ensemble the night before was made up of young twentysomething your-regular-kind-of-*barkada* clad in tees and shorts who take their music rather seriously.

Crisancti Macaso, the concert master, describes the music that the Rubato Ensemble espouses as Baroque and the Italian word means "something that was stolen." He said his young group seeks to restore the music lost to pop and rock back to the children of "Star Wars" and "Superman" generation.

Having honed his skills as a violinist with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra and the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, Macaso formed the 10-member string ensemble from the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music, University of the Philippines College of Music and De La Salle University. Then he asked Mildred Gemperoso and Rexcelus Evangelista to lend their soprano voices, and Molinder Cadiz and Jun Peñaverde their tenors'.

While some are still pursuing their bachelor's degree, others are already teaching in a number of schools in Metro Manila. Some of them have performed with San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra, Manila Symphony Orchestra and the UST Symphony Orchestra.

They see in the Rubato Ensemble a venue for them to enhance their skills especially in concerto play.

German Club events commitee chair Hartwig Herold saw in the young musicians a commitment to music rare with their generation and brought them to their first chamber music concert at the Farm.

Still heady after the warm reception accorded by their small audience, the group left the health resort with their backpacks and musical instruments in tow, bringing a new holistic insight that music and meditation are synonymous.

Once on Panay island now

The Gilopez Kabayao Foundation production of 'My Fair Lady' in Iloilo shames the glossiest of Manila-mounted musicals

By Luna Griño-Inocian
Contributor

OF STAGE

WHEN the Kabayaos—as in the violinist of international fame, Gilopez Kabayao, and his musically gifted family—invited me to Iloilo to review their production of "My Fair Lady," I felt I wasn't the person for the job.

I thought I was the wrong person to sic on a regional community theater company doing its very first musical, whose director was directing a musical for the very first time, a star who had never done a musical in her life (though she had proven quite exceptional as Anne in the "Diary of Anne Frank," a musical is a whole different banana!) and a budget I knew would be nowhere near that of a "small musical" in Manila.

After 30-some years in theater as everything from stage hand to stage manager to administrator, I was trained to see everything on stage that was out of the ordinary… as in, if there was a fault to be found, I'd find it. Also my natural propensity is to be obsessive-compulsive, a stickler—in fact, persnickety. I knew I was bound to nitpick!

Add to that a passion for BBC/ Merchant Ivory and period pieces of the same genre that has given this never-been-on-British-soil person quite a body of knowledge on British customs, conduct and dialects… I was bound to nitpick!

If those weren't enough reasons to say no to the assignment, the romantic in me had learned to love "My Fair Lady" from the time my father brought home a long-playing record of the original cast recording with Julie Andrews and Rex Harrison, till Audrey Hepburn charmed me in the movie version, and through its various incarnations on stage in Manila. I mean it is, after all, one of the first chick flicks (with music to boot), a dyed in the wool "rom com" (i.e., romantic comedy) in the same ilk as "Pretty Woman." I was bound to nitpick!

Nitpicking

But, against my better judgment, I said yes, flew to Iloilo and, true to form, I spent the first few minutes of the play nitpicking! I saw shoes and socks horrendously "not-of-the-period," the decidedly 21st-century chrome and blond wood stool right smack in the middle of the 19th-century set, and—horrors—some very un-British behavior… until I remembered that hey, theater is my passion—not perfection—and that one of personal goals is to encourage the love of theater, propagate its craft and help take it to the broadest, biggest audience possible… and these guys are doing just that!

The Gilopez Kabayao Foundation has a four-fold thrust for individual and organizational beneficiaries in Iloilo—spiritual, educational, medical and cultural. In line with their cultural objectives, they regularly produce plays and concerts as well as sponsor workshops for theatre groups from Iloilo public high schools. Right down my altruistic alley… however little there is of it.

Once I remembered that, it was easy to stop nitpicking and start seeing the good (even great) things about the production—painstakingly handmade lifelike vegetables (not wilted Chinese *petchay* as we are wont to resort to even in the most professional circles); fabulous black-and-white outfits for the Ascot races capped by millinery of the beaded and feathered kind to make any self-respecting production designer drool; the wonderfully understated but nevertheless stunning ballgown a charmingly svelte and petite Eliza Doolittle wears to the Embassy Ball, and the clever (though sometimes cumbersome) set that transforms accordion-like into Haymarket, Professor Higgin's home, Ascot, the Embassy, the street and back and forth without benefit of fly bars or wings!

And there was the music and the singing!

Rights for "My Fair Lady" were given to the Gilopez Kabayao Foundation on the condition that music had to be live. Budgets, of course, did not allow for the full orchestra required, but the ever dexterous and skilled pianist Corazon Kabayao rose to the task as a virtual one-woman orchestra and musical director. Gilopez Kabayao came in as vocal coach for the leads. Their combined musical know-how helping a talented cast during hours-days-weeks-months of dedicated rehearsals made for a wonderful musical experience.

Farida Kabayao, in her very first singing role ever, attacked her character with the same fervor as she did her Anne Frank, and was charming and irritating in turn and then confidently dazzling in a pale-gold creation designed by her Mom for the Embassy Ball. (Yes, Manang Cora was the costume designer as well.)

Commended

I couldn't stop myself from thinking that the lawyer-by-profession-actor-by-inclination Rodolfo Cabado's Professor Higgins paled in comparison to Rex Harrison, but then again few men could live up to that impossibly high mark. He does, however, get high marks for his effortlessness and his decidedly British inflection.

In fact, the entire cast should be commended for their consistent Cockney accent (thanks to dialect coach Hazel Andrea-Stuart). Alain Opina's Freddie Eynsford-Hill was suitably charming and dashing. Top marks, however, go to Jon Jainga who played Stanley Doolittle with such aplomb he literally stole the show!

My only real beef is with first time director, Joan Libo-on, who I, despite artistic difference, do not begrudge a hearty congratulations for a job well-done! It is no mean task to direct a musical and she did. However, this Brit Lit fan does not agree with her direction to "Philippinize" the musical to make it more accessible and understandable to the audience.

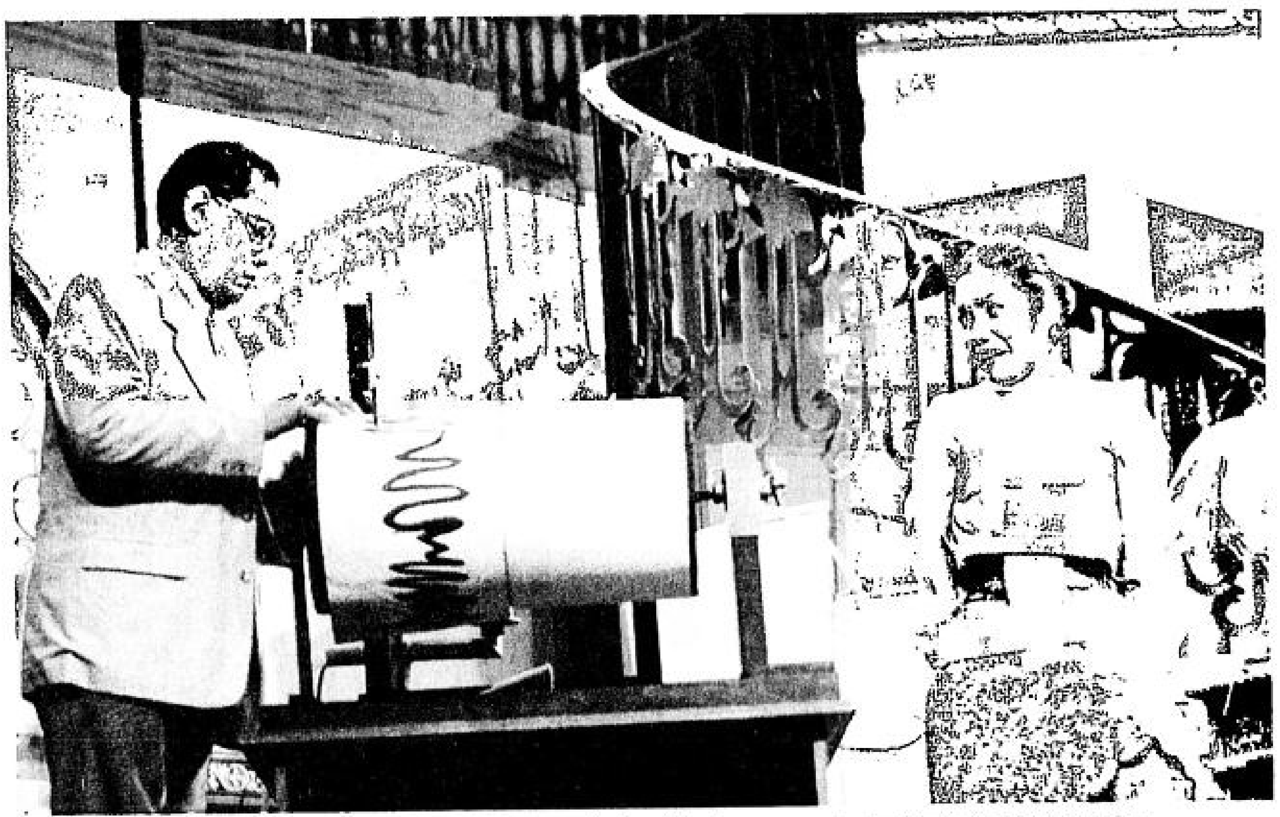
Though I understand her reasons, the purist in me can't help think that one should elevate audiences, not go down to their level. I personally would have preferred an all-out adaptation of the material—Eliza Doolittle as a poor Visayan peddler being transformed by an English language professor from Ateneo kinda thing.

But then again that's me. After all, if the 1,000-strong audience who gave them a hearty standing ovation that night is any gauge, I was definitely in the minority on that!

That beef aside, the thing that stands out most about the production is the love. Trite as that may sound—it's true. It's love for music and the musical genre that pressed the Kabayaos to produce "My Fair Lady" (devoting the entire family's time and effort to the production—daughter Sicilliene was production manager and son Gilberto part of the chorus—which included raising finances, soliciting sponsorship and marketing it themselves). It's love and trust that made them put a project they loved in the hands of virtual newbie.

It's love for the craft that made everyone in the cast and crew, from top to bottom, work so meticulously (from the beadwork to studying the dialects with a bonafide coach), assiduously, dedicatedly, generously and so joyfully! You could see they loved doing what they were doing. You could feel how much they loved being in the play.

It is that love and that joy that virtually reaches out to you and dispels any need or desire to nitpick. And at the end of the day, I could and did—in all honesty—tell them they did a truly fine job of it!



RODOLFO Cabado's Professor Higgins gets high marks for effortlessness and a decidedly British inflection.

LOVE of musical theater and joy in the craft virtually reach out to you in this production of "My Fair Lady."

FARIDA Kabayao as the Cockney flower girl Eliza Doolittle, who eventually transforms into a proper English lady

Two tickets for a Shakespeare book

HAVING written over 30 plays, 154 sonnets and a handful of poems, William Shakespeare is secure in his reputation as perhaps the greatest writer of all time. A playwright who excelled in both tragedy and comedy, his writings are now known the world over: "Romeo and Juliet," "Much Ado About Nothing," "Hamlet" and "Twelfth Night," to name a few.

Shakespeare's influence goes beyond his body of work. Aside from the widespread use of quotations from his plays, he invented over 1,700 common words in the English language. Words like addiction, jaded, swagger and moonbeam were first used in his various works.

Experience Shakespeare in print and on the big screen as Powerbooks Specialty Store treats the first 50 customers who purchase any Folger Shakespeare Library book to two tickets to a special screening of Romeo and Juliet starring Leonardo di Caprio and Claire Danes on May 4 at the Greenbelt 3 MyCinema.

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Hamlet
By William Shakespeare

Book tackles homilies

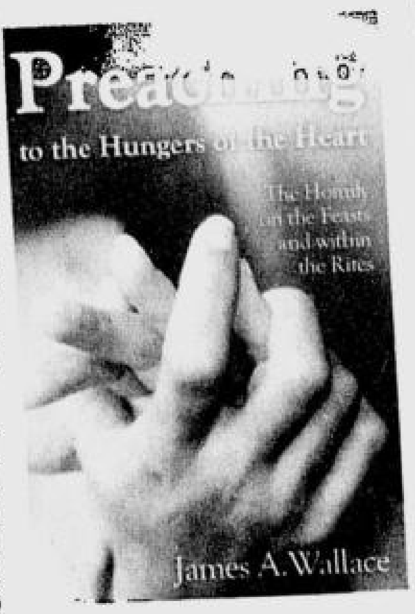
WE are all guilty of it: at one time or another, during Mass, most of us have found ourselves "turning off" our minds and ears during the homily. Sometimes our minds wander and our thoughts turn to our other concerns, sometimes we even find ourselves wondering when the torture will be over.

Perhaps this comes from a misunderstanding of the word "homily." We sometimes call it a "sermon," when the word can imply an admonition, even condemnation, complete with fire and brimstone. But the word "homily" has to do with preaching, which really means bridging the gap between the meaning of Scripture and liturgy and the lives of the congregation.

This is the idea that James Wallace develops in his book, "Preaching to the Hungers of the Heart." Wallace's book explores the value of the homily especially in those liturgies which mark important events in the life of the Christian community, such as feasts and rites. A professor of homiletics at the Washington Theological Union, Wallace writes from his experience as a teacher and a homilist, including many anecdotes and sample homilies.

"Preaching to the Hungers of the Heart" is not just for priests. As the laity participate more and more in the ministries of the Church, we grow more and more able to fill each other's hunger for meaning, wholeness and companionship. As our hunger is filled, perhaps we can "turn on" our minds and hearts to the homilies and get to know and love the Lord even more.

"Preaching to the Hungers of the Heart" is published locally by Jesuit Communications and available at all Tanging Yaman stores at the Ateneo de Manila University, Gateway Mall (Araneta Center), SM Megamall, SM North Edsa and leading bookstores nationwide. Call 4265971 to 72.


Preaching
to the Hungers of the Heart
The Homily on the Feasts and within the Rites
James A. Wallace

Baguio as a concert destination

From page D1

On Saturday, May 28, the Baguio Country Club and the National Delphic Council headed by Bautista will present pianist Oliver Salonga in his first solo recital in the city. Proceeds will go to the special project of the National Delphic Council, particularly for the arts and culture.

I fully agree with the International Delphic movement that arts education through exposure greatly enriches the character and quality of the creative capacity of the individual and enables him to face the challenges of the future with a balanced perspective.

By the way, the Baguio Country Club, which observes its centennial year, is the new home for the arts in Baguio.

After Salonga's recital, the cello returns to Baguio with a special recital of Victor Michael Coo in the same venue on June 24. Coo is a first prize winner of the National Music Competition for Young Artists and winner of three concerto competitions in the United States.

The program for the May 28 solo recital of Salonga includes Beethoven's Sonata No. 23 in F Minor, Op. 57; Liszt's Transcendental Etude No. 4; and Chopin's Ballade No.1 in G Minor, Op. 15, Fantaisie Impromptu in C Sharp Minor, Op. 66, and Scherzo No. 2 in B Flat Minor,Op. 31. Call 0918-7376901 or 9017156

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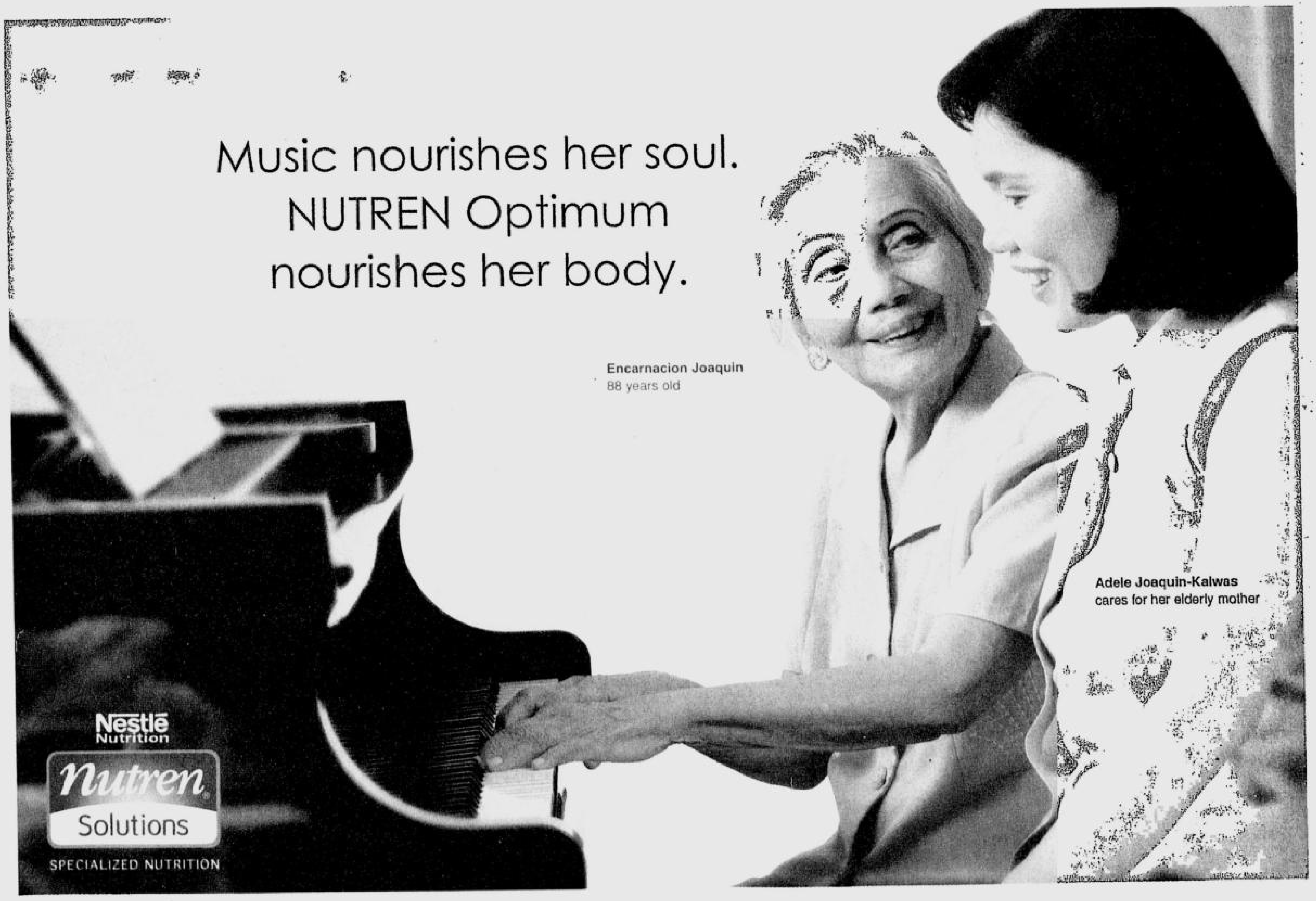

Adele and her mother are both musicians. Adele plays the flute while her mom, Encarnacion, who's almost in her 90's, can still play the piano. Given her mom's age, Adele knows that good nutrition is even more important for her strength.

Thankfully there's NUTREN Optimum. A delicious meal replacement in Vanilla and now in Chocolate flavor. A breakthrough from the Nestlé Research Center in Switzerland and made from the finest chocolate, the taste of NUTREN Optimum Chocolate is preferred by consumers over its competition in a recently conducted consumer test. NUTREN contains whey, plus all of the essential nutrients, vitamins and minerals in every glass.

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[1] Walzem, R.L., C.J. Dillard, and J.B. German. Crit. Rev. Food & Sci & Nutr. 42:353, 2002. [2] Mustor A. Cancer Res 1994 54(S):1989-1975,

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River of grace runs through 'Panaghoy'

The most nominated movie in the 28th Gawad Urian is an astounding work of the heart

By Lito B. Zulueta

ASIDE from Best Actor, Cesar Montano is also nominated for directing and producing the movie.

FOR WEARING his heart on his sleeve, Cesar Montano has done audacious work. "Panaghoy sa Suba" is perhaps the most accomplished film to be made by a Filipino actor-director in many years. But it is accomplished not because of the soundness of its filmmaking and the majesty of its vision. It is all that and more. It is accomplished because Montano shows a coherence of emotion and thought, a unity of feeling and action. It is a heartfelt work from an artist with a big heart.

This is a film that could only have been made by someone in love. How could one explain its setting and period: Bohol during the war? And how could one explain its courage in adopting four languages—Tagalog, Cebuano, English and

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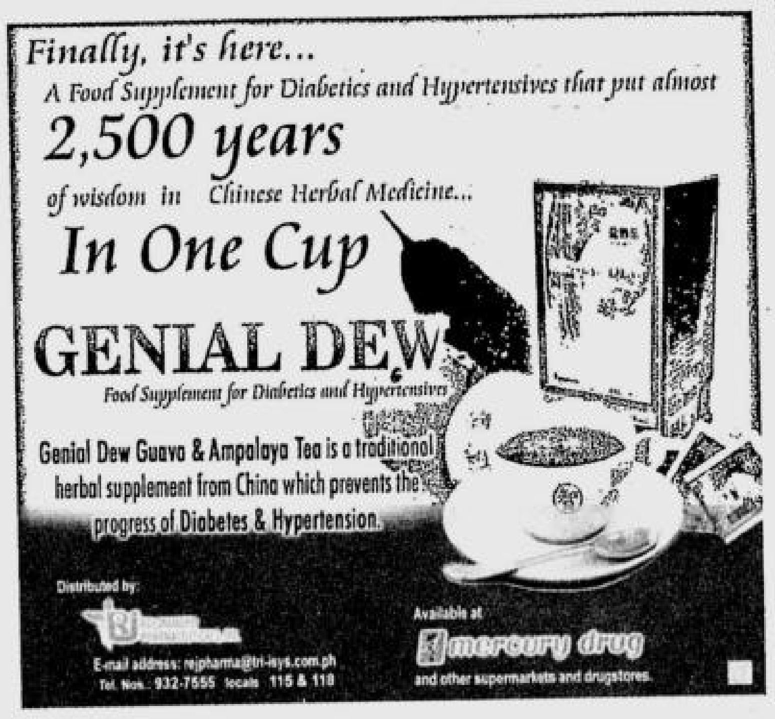
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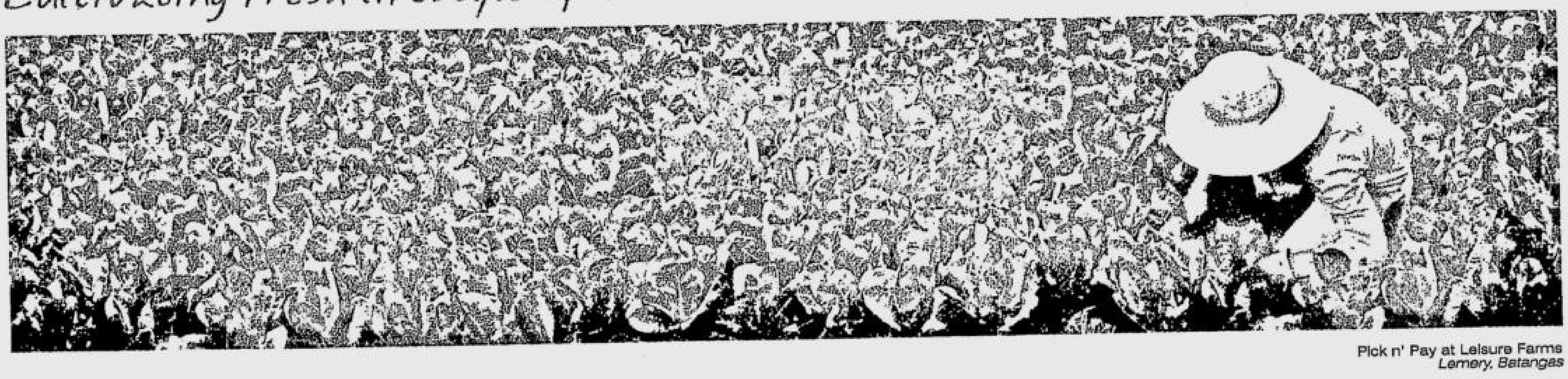
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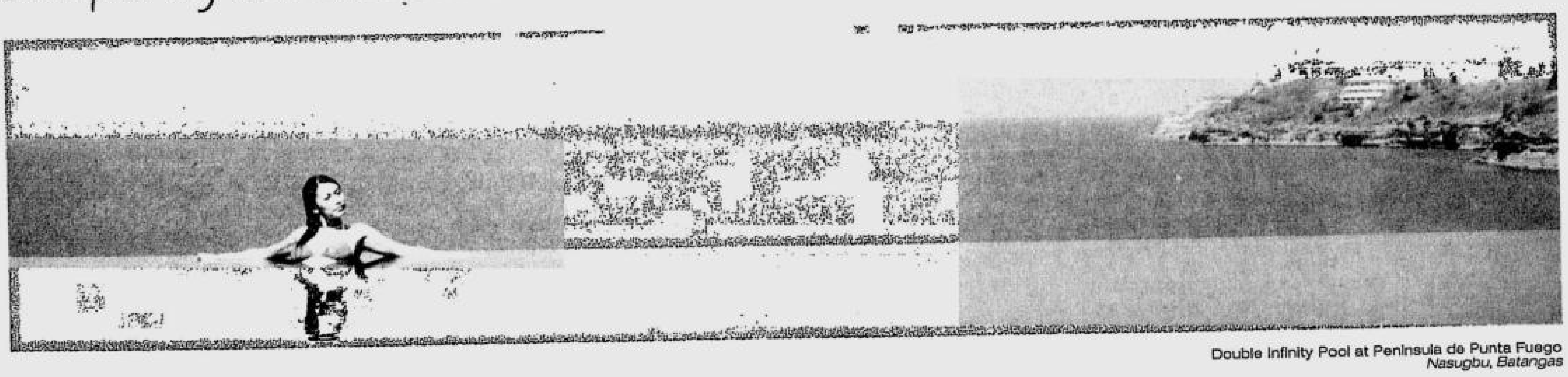
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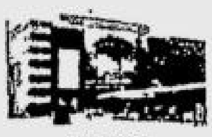
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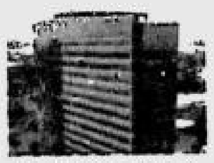
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Putting the 'work' back into 'workshop'

By Vicente Garcia Groyon
Contributor

IYAS Fellows Anna Cristina Gonzales, Jeneen Garcia, John Paul Samonte, Jan Mikael de Lara Co, and poet and playwright Elsa Martinez Coscolluela enjoy a merienda break.

THE PANELISTS and Fellows of the 2005 Iyas Creative Writing Workshop. Back row: Mary Rose Adelle G. Pacificar, Winton Lou Ynion, Ma. Graziella L. Sigaya, Jan Mikael de Lara Co, Vladimir Bautista Gonzales, Dennis Andrew S. Aguinaldo, Reggy Capacio Figer, Telesforo Sungkit Jr., Ava Vivian A. Gonzalez, Jeneen Garcia and Anna Cristina Gonzales. Middle row: Elsa Martinez Coscolluela, Cirilo F. Bautista, Leoncio P. Deriada, Resil Mojares and Marjorie Evasco. Front row: Arvin Tiong Ello, Zoe Jon Alejandra, John Paul Samonte and Jason G. Tabinas

THE WRITING Fellows of the 2005 Iyas Creative Writing Workshop underwent a different kind of workshop April 25-29 at University of St. La Salle in Bacolod City.

Writing workshops in the Philippines are usually based on the Iowa Writing Workshop model brought to the Philippines by Edilberto and Edith Tiempo and the Silliman Writers Workshop in 1962. This model uses the reading and critiquing of the participants' literary pieces as a way of teaching the craft of writing and revising.

In its first four years, the Iyas Creative Writing Workshop remained true to this model, innovating only with the inclusion of a Negros Occidental cultural tour and an interface with the Negros Summer Workshops in Multimedia, also held at USLS, handled by a creative team led by film director Peque Gallaga.

The workshop receives funding from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and is organized in cooperation with the Bienvenido N. Santos Creative Writing Center of De La Salle University.

Iyas Workshop Director Cirilo F. Bautista had long felt the need to shift the emphasis in writing workshops from reading to writing. In the summer of 2004, he spearheaded a change in the Workshop's format. The change was implemented this year with considerable success.

As always, six writers were invited to join the panel. However, they were requested to prepare a five-day syllabus for a writing clinic of sorts, focused on a specific form and language (e.g., fiction in Filipino, poetry in English).

Fifteen writing fellows were chosen based on the manuscripts they submitted for consideration, and instructed to bring their writing implements of choice, although computers and a printer would be made available at the workshop venue.

Once the workshop began, they were promptly assigned to the panelist handling their form and language.

Leoncio P. Deriada supervised Zoe Jon Alejandra (Poetry in Hiligaynon), Mary Rose Adelle G. Pacificar (Poetry and Fiction in Hiligaynon) and Ma. Graziella L. Sigaya (Poetry in Hiligaynon and Kiniray-a); Resil Mojares handled Telesforo Sungkit Jr. (Fiction in Cebuano), Vladimir Bautista Gonzales and Jason G. Tabinas (Fiction in Filipino); and Vicente Garcia Groyon took on Dennis Andrew S. Aguinaldo and Ava Vivian A. Gonzalez (Fiction in English).

Elsa Martinez Coscolluela and Marjorie Evasco team-taught Jan Mikael de Lara Co, Anna Cristina Gonzales, Jeneen Garcia and John Paul Samonte (Poetry in English); and Cirilo F. Bautista mentored Arvin Tiong Ello, Reggy Capacio Figer and Winton Lou Ynion (Poetry in Filipino).

Ten of the fellows had already attended at least one other workshop before, and were understandably anxious about not receiving the customary sheaf of manuscripts (with bylines omitted) to read and critique.

However, once the new format was explained and the small-group writing clinics began, the fellows and panelists warmed to the new system, and things fell naturally into place.

With two to four fellows per panelist, thorough and pointed discussions on form, language, and individual strengths and weaknesses ensued. Fellows were immediately engaged.

With the exception of plenary sessions on the first and last days of the workshop, the fellows and panelists split into small groups to thresh out problems in their manuscripts, seek revision solutions, and undergo writing exercises designed to encourage the production of new works by the end of the five-day workshop.

On the evening of the fifth day, the fellows presented their new or revised works at an open mike reading before being awarded their certificates of completion.

Because the structure, content and schedule of the clinics were left up to the panelists, a variety of activities were introduced. Evasco and Coscolluela took their poets to the gallery of Negrense painter Charlie Co for an interaction with the artist and an *ekphrasis* (poetry about paintings) exercise. Resil Mojares led the *kwentistas* on an exploration of the body's narrative potential while imbibing the ambience of Bacolod City's cafés.

Bautista guided his *makata* through a grueling crash course in Tagalog poetics, while this writer sent the fiction writers exploring the downtown area in search of stories and Leoncio Deriada regaled the *mamalaybay* with a stun of information on West Visayan writing.

Fellows lamented the loss of the "cross-pollination" that occurs when one listens to discussions about another form or language. They also were quick to note that, given their exercises and the pressure to produce new work, there was less time to interact with other fellows and bond over beer and *pulutan*.

At the closing ceremony, Bautista joked that the last five days had been the most work he'd ever done for an honorarium.

All things considered, though, panelists and fellows agreed that the new format was worth pursuing with a few adjustments. Suggestions for refining the workshop were put forward even before the evaluation survey forms were distributed.

Apart from extending the workshop's duration, future innovations could include short lectures on writing to increase the amount of plenary interaction among participants, and devising a more uniform schedule for activities.

Gallaga also proposed a more intensive interface with the multimedia workshop, in which the Directors' Apprenticeship students produce short films based on or inspired by the writing fellows' manuscripts.

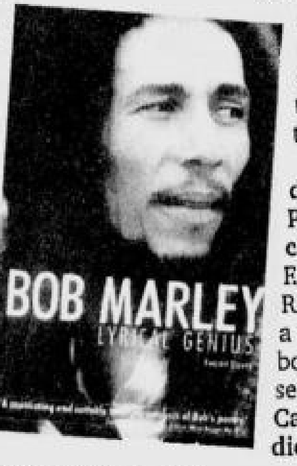
In the end, the best part of this year's Iyas Workshop was knowing that the writing fellows all returned to their lives with new works stashed in their luggage and fresh concepts germinating in their minds.

Since *iyas* is an ancient Hiligaynon word meaning "seed," "seedling," or "sprout"—that from which larger things might grow, given care and attention—the Iyas Creative Writing Workshop therefore comes full circle, fulfilling its original vision.

Sizzling summer reads

"HIGH Society" by British writer Sarah Mason is an engaging novel full of quirky characters and sparkling dialogue. It revolves around Clemmie Colshannon and her misadventures with her sister, Holly, as they set out to investigate the disappearance of one of Holly's co-workers.

"Get Shorty" by Elmore Leonard is about Chili Palmer, a debt collector for the mob in Miami, who gets tired of the usual grind and goes to Hollywood to test the waters in the movie business. This highly successful novel was adapted into a movie starring John Travolta, Danny DeVito, Gene Hackman and Rene Russo.



A dark and moving psychological thriller, **"Mister Candid"** by Jules Hardy follows a serial killer with the mind of a genius and a heart of gold.

"The Birth of Venus" by Sarah Dunant is a beautiful coming-of-age story of Alessandra, a young woman whose love of art and lively independence lure her into all sorts of complications in her life.

Discover the true meaning of Christmas this summer with **"Gideon's Gift"** by Karen Kingsbury. It is a touching story about a man steeped in grief over the death of his wife and daughter, and the 7-year-old girl with leukemia who befriends him.

"Bob Marley: Lyrical Genius" by Kwame Dawes is a captivating and in-depth analysis of the musician's poetry. It acknowledges his words' fierce intelligence alongside their spirit and spirituality, thus affording them the same academic-type respect more usually given to the likes of Bob Dylan and John Lennon.

In **"Magdalene's Lost Legacy,"** author Margaret Starbird decodes the symbolic numbers embedded in the original Greek phrases of the New Testament, revealing the powerful presence of the feminine divine and the union between Jesus and his bride, Mary Magdalene, which formed a sacred partnership that was the cornerstone of the earliest Christian community.

"The Carbohydrate Addict's Program for Success" by Dr. Rachel F. Heller and Dr. Richard F. Heller is a companion workbook to their bestselling book, **"The Carbohydrate Addict's Diet,"** which provides additional support and strategies every carbohydrate addict needs to succeed.

"Mastering the Art of French Cooking" by Julia Child, Louisette Bertholle and Simone Beck is for both seasoned cooks and beginners who love good food and long to reproduce at home the savory delights of classic French cuisine.

A must read for entrepreneurs and businessmen, **"Managing Customers As Investments"** by Sunil Gupta and Donald R. Lehman teaches a rigorous yet simple approach to estimating the lifetime value of customers and how this information can be useful in making better tactical and strategic decisions.

All titles available at PowerBooks Specialty Store, with branches at Greenbelt 4 (7576428/29), Megamall (6352898-99), Alabang (8505662-63) and Glorietta (7527075)

Ida Endonila stokes the fires of revolution

By Butch Hernandez
Contributor

IDA Endonila, former DepEd superintendent and now the FWWPP's Education Revolution regional coordinator

UNTIL her retirement last February, Ida Endonila squarely faced the daunting task of bringing quality education to public school students on a daily basis for more than 40 years.

Ida has been the Department of Education's superintendent for the Iloilo City Schools division since 1994. As the senior DepEd official for this major city, Ida had command responsibility over the educational needs of more than 63,000 students enrolled in 52 elementary schools and 12 high schools.

Ida started her career at DepEd as a public health nurse in 1963. She moved up to DepEd supervisor for Iloilo province in 1972.

She later earned a well-deserved promotion to superintendent of the Iloilo City Schools division, where she consistently distinguished herself as a no-nonsense administrator and inspiring leader.

Ida learned of the FWWPP's Education Revolution through DepEd Memorandum No. 35 issued by former Secretary Edilberto de Jesus quite coincidentally in February 2003.

Being fully aware of the teacher's awesome responsibility in shaping young minds, Ida took the initiative and sought out FWWPP Mentoring the Mentors program director Chinit Rufino who just happened to be in Iloilo City at that time.

Moving with characteristic dispatch, Ida organized the Iloilo City Schools division as a Mentoring the Mentors pilot site. For the first time, public school teachers experienced the highly interactive teacher formation and skills building sessions jointly developed by academic experts from Assumption and the University of the Philippines.

But in 2005, government service rules mandated that Ida Endonila was due for retirement. After four decades in the public sector, Ida looked forward to the respite, but not for long. The challenge of realizing public education's enormous potential for genuine social transformation was too strong for Ida to resist.

And so Ida Endonila, former dedicated public servant, became an education revolutionary.

She is now the FWWPP's regional coordinator tasked with stoking the fires of the Education Revolution in the Visayas and in some parts of Mindanao.

Evident

Ida's organizational skill and administrative handiwork was very evident in the recently concluded Mentoring the Mentors sessions designed especially for DepEd directors, superintendents and assistant superintendents from Regions VI (Western Visayas), VII (Central Visayas) and VIII (Eastern Visayas).

In an inspiring display of solidarity, directors Victoriano Tirol (region VI), Carmelo Mordeno (region VII) and Sol Matugas (region VIII) jointly led 71 participants through the various activities and brought into the sessions their own ideas and experiences.

Together with Ida, the sessions for this one-of-a-kind gathering were conducted by MMP program director Chinit Rufino, Dr. Celia Adriano, Dominica Parcia, Principal of Jaroll Elementary School, Ms Ma. Luz de los Reyes, an Education Supervisor in English and Ms Ram Olandesca, whose Masters thesis was on Building Relationships.

The latter three were all trainees for the Mentoring the Mentors Program that had organized Trainors Training for Region VI last year.

Ida says the sessions have been so productive that the Regional Directors have already planned Trainors Training in anticipation of an increased need for more facilitators to conduct Mentoring the Mentors at the district level.

Meanwhile, Ida's former colleagues—the superintendents—are all fired up. Ida says, in the next few months, she expects a flurry of activity in the three regions' 17 divisions as the superintendents get their respective action plans in gear.

The going will still be rough, but it won't be as difficult because now they have Ida Endonila showing the way.

Textbooks from New Day

NEW Day Publishers, a pioneer religious and Filipiniana publishing house, unveils its textbooks series for almost any subject or course, mostly written by Filipino authors and based on Philippine setting.

For communication and journalism students, Crispin Maslog's "Communication, Values and Society," "Philippine Communication: An Introduction" and "Philippine Mass Communication (A Mini-History)" are must-reads.

Moreover, there are also Nellie and Ernesto Cubar's "Writing Filipino Grammar" and Cecilia Genove's "Feature Writing for Filipinos" to sharpen writing proficiency.

Cesar Orsal's "Binhian" and Elda Maglaya's "Filipino sa Nagbabagong Panahon" will enhance and widen the art of communicating using the Filipino language.

Aspiring social workers, on the other hand, can have a comprehensive overview of the discipline with "Dictionary of Social Work" and "Introduction to Social Work" of Leonora De Guzman, which present detailed discussions of social work in Philippine setting "College Algebra, A Modular Approach" by Dayrit, Calderon and Macapagal, and "Physical Activities for the Filipina" by Sofia Ravello and Janice Beran will help students study with ease in these general college subjects.

To help students better understand themselves, the fascinating world out there, there are "Psychology and You" by Ma. Sofia Leonano, et al. and Florentino Timbreza's "Quest for Meaning." There is also Lutie Orteza-Lee's "Teaching Cultural Diversity Through Children's Literature" which seeks relevant, motivating and meaningful curriculum materials that inculcates multicultural values and strategies.

Finally, graduating students can discover the simple steps in thesis writing through Jose Leveriza's "Thesis Writing: A Practical Guide."

For a complete listing of textbooks and reference materials, contact 9288046 or 9275982 or e-mail newdayorders@edsamail.com.ph.

TRAGIC lovers Iset (Juliana Palermo) and Duroy (Montano)

PALERMO (here with Caridad Sanchez) is nominated for Best Supporting Actress.

River of grace runs through 'Panaghoy'

From page E1

Japanese? This movie is a polyglot's delight! Obviously this is a movie that doesn't spare anything for the sake of authenticity. It is a movie with a mission.

That mission is particularly inspiring in a movie industry of tin-can dreams and short-sighted visions. Montano has put his money where his mouth is. He is obviously a man in love with film and in love with his homeland and country. His is a testimony of love. And it is this love that the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pililipino honors when it nominates the movie for best picture in the 28th Gawad Urian, along with Lav Diaz's "Ebolusyon ng Isang Pamilyang Pilipino" (Paul Tanedo Inc.), Olivia Lamasan's "Milan" (Star Cinema) and Joel Lamangan's "Sabel" (Regal Films).

Enchanting

"Panaghoy" is an enchanting romantic work if one considers its romantic setting—the beautiful river of Loboc—and its narrative revolving around Duroy (Montano) and Iset (Juliana Palermo).

In the initial stages, in fact, Montano the director paints a loving portrait of Bohol, its picturesque vastness, its hardy people, its quaint but charming ways.

The latter are particularly shown when Duroy serenades Iset, and the sequence seems to last longer than usual, at least longer than one would expect during these days when movies seem calculated to explode and bombard the viewer every 15th second.

But nothing explodes here, however extended the scenes. We just feel transported to a time when things where a little slower, a little more leisurely, if only that life didn't hurry, it throbbed.

And life throbbing is what "Panaghoy" shows in loving detail. There's the bantering and teasing in Duroy's family. There's the laid-back work in the palm oil factory, where Iset catches the eye of the American proprietor. And there's the exchange of loving glances between Iset and Duroy amid everyday industry.

It's only a matter of time for all of this gentle and loving ordinariness to be unsettled and eventually destroyed. When war comes, it comes with a jolt, with the horror of innocence. We are taken on an astounding survey of the war and all its ravages: the incomprehension of the town outcast (Ronnie Lazaro), the travails of Duroy's sister (Rebecca Lusterio), the dilemmas of the heart and of survival of Iset, the strivings toward mercy and humanitarianism of the Japanese conqueror (Jacky Woo), and the rage of Duroy at the injustice and the senselessness of it all.

Acute

The technical achievement is quite acute. For old-time movie lovers, there's the shock of finding that Ely Cruz, a cinematographer of the classic "Maynila, Sa Mga Kuko ng Liwanag," is behind the camera of "Panaghoy." It's a shock of recognition really since, as in "Maynila," there are the adept scale shots in "Panaghoy," the grainy, almost pointilist exactness, the moody lighting and the striking close-ups. Montano has obviously found his Sven Nykvist, just as Lino Brocka found his in Conrado Balazar.

Renato de Leon's editing is sure and controlled. The production design may have lapses (such as women without veils inside the church), but it works because it is able to paint the era in an efficient way, without overdoing or trivializing it. The sound is likewise competent. And, surprise of all surprises, the music is faithful to the era and to Bohol.

Through all of war's fortunes and pitfalls is the Loboc river, its waters calm and tranquil as ever, its byways reflecting the twisted meanderings of war and its warriors, but as sure as it empties into the sea, it leads to renewal and a chance for new beginnings.

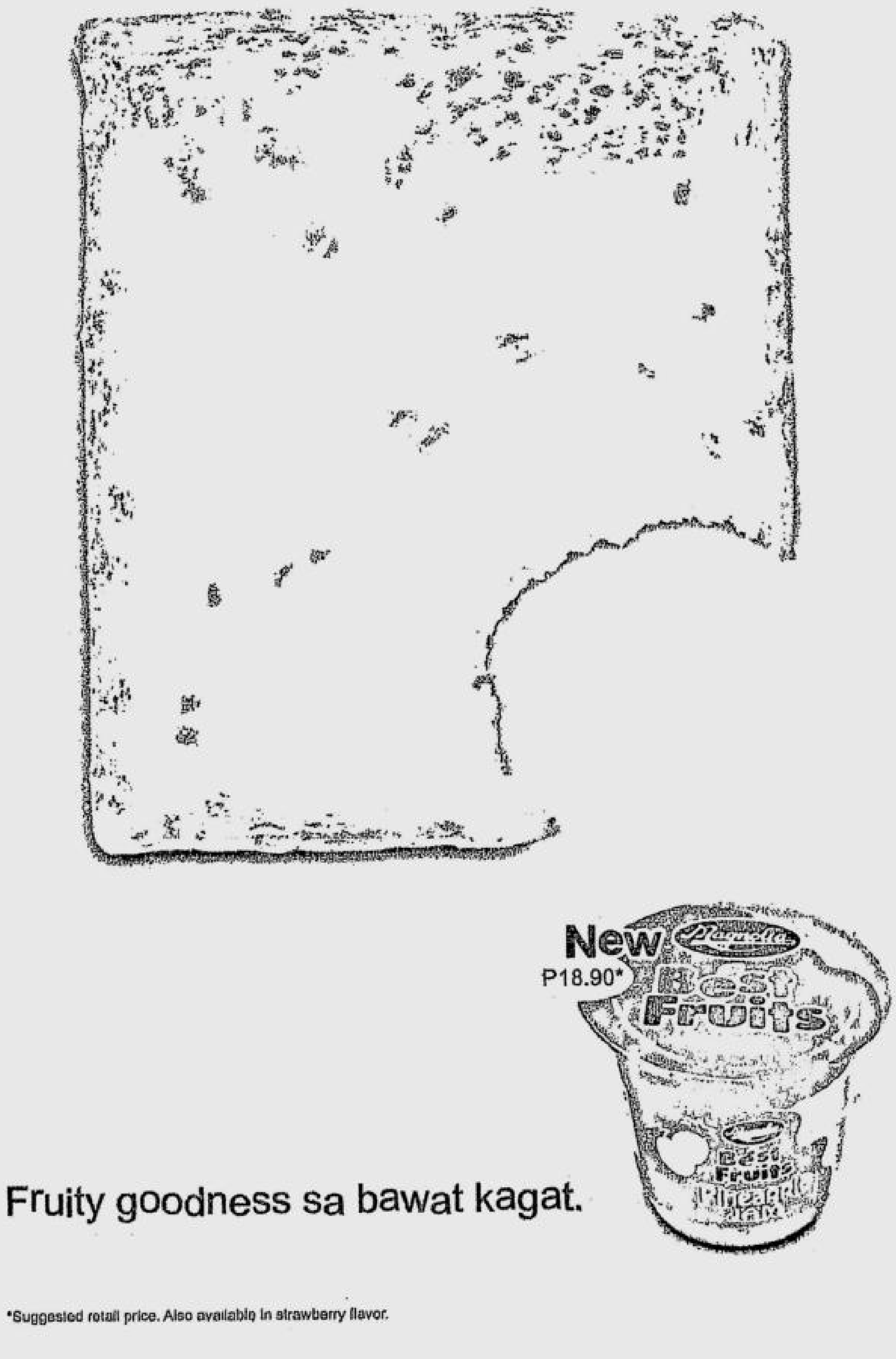
"Panaghoy" may mean the wailing river, but it's not a plaintive, mournful movie. It's a quiet, celebratory film, and it is Montano's achievement that he has infected war with his innate goodness and optimism. This movie doesn't cry you a river. It washes over you, like all-generous waters.

The 28th Gawad Urian, the film critic's prize, will be given out in colorful ceremonies on June 4, 6 p.m., at the AFP Theater in Quezon City. The awards night is produced by APT Productions and will be seen on Channel 9.

JACKY Woo plays the gentle Japanese officer in love with Iset.

REBECCA Lusterio (with Daria Ramirez) is nominated for Best Supporting Actress.

MONTANO, accomplished actor-director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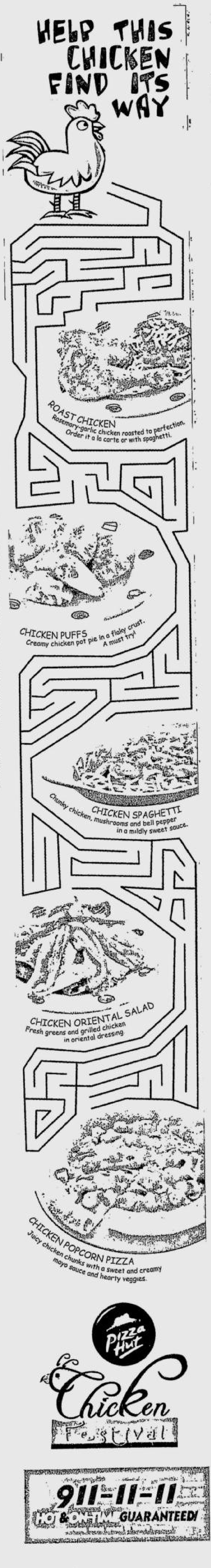
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At Starbucks, indulge to your heart's content this summer and try other healthy options such as sugar-free vanilla syrup, non-fat milk, soy milk and Lite Banana Cream Pie, a low fat banana custard pie topped with fresh bananas and non-dairy whipped cream with no cholesterol and less sugar – all suited to your active and healthy lifestyle.

Starbucks Philippines is owned by Rustan Coffee Corporation (RCoC), the authorized licensee of Starbucks Coffee International. Starbucks Philippines opened its first Starbucks retail store on December 4, 1997 at 6750 Ayala Avenue. To date, there are 77 Starbucks stores located across the country.

Mocha Frappuccino® Light blended coffee

Caramel Frappuccino® Light blended coffee

THE CALORIES STOP

LONG BEFORE THE FLAVOR DOES.

145 CALORIES & 1.5g FAT (TALL)

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The Starbucks® Frappuccino® Blended Coffee. Have it in original or light.

Visit your neighborhood Starbucks® store and try a FRAPPUCCINO® LIGHT BLENDED COFFEE today!

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For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Delighting in 'Deception'

The world's smartest teenage thief overcomes his greatest trials in this engrossing next chapter in the 'Artemis Fowl' saga

By Ruel S. De Vera

YOU KNOW a character is beloved when, even after villainy to a certain extent, even when he already technically has figured in a clever, satisfying and otherwise happy ending, readers dread that they will no longer be witness to his deeds.

This is the enviable situation faced by 14-year-old Artemis Fowl The Second, the criminal mastermind and prodigy who, apparently, had turned over a new leaf at the ending of author Eoin Colfer's "Artemis Fowl: The Eternity Code," the third novel featuring the cunning teenaged thief, back in 2003.

Possessed of an unstoppable intellect, a taste for great things and a dry wit, Fowl has emerged to become one of the most popular protagonists along with a would-be wizard named Harry and orphans being pursued by a certain Count. And he's not always a good guy.

What has also made Colfer's books so delightful is the unique mix of elements: Fowl's genius combined with a vivid world where magic is the product of fairy technology.

In the "Fowl" series, the fairy denizens—otherwise known as the People—operates unseen by humans—or Mud Men—and protected by the elite members of the Lower Elements Police.

The LEP's best is the brave, reckless Lt. Holly Short, also a friend to Fowl.

After all, in "Eternity," Fowl had combined forces with Short, the centaur technician Foaly and the disgustingly charming kleptomaniac dwarf Mulch Diggums to save the fairies from a fearful conspiracy led by the evil pixie Opal Koboi.

Take a leap

If that all sounds like a bit much, take a fanciful leap and check out Colfer's previous "Fowl" books and see why it's all so much creative fun.

Colfer explored new territory with two post-Fowl projects, "The Wish List" and "The Supernaturalist."

But readers will rejoice with Fowl's return in "Artemis Fowl: The Opal Deception" (Miramax Books/Hyperion Books for Children, New York, 2005, 432 pages). At book's beginning, Fowl is back to his crooked ways, aided by loyal manservant Butler, both still having forgotten about their fairy adventures thanks to a Foaly mindwipe.

Short is up for promotion and Koboi lies in a coma. All is well.

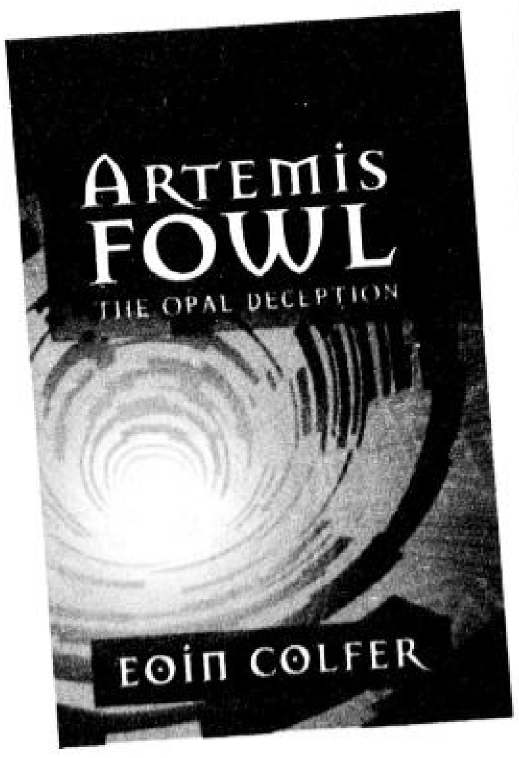
Well, not exactly all, after all, the book isn't called "The Opal Deception" for nothing.

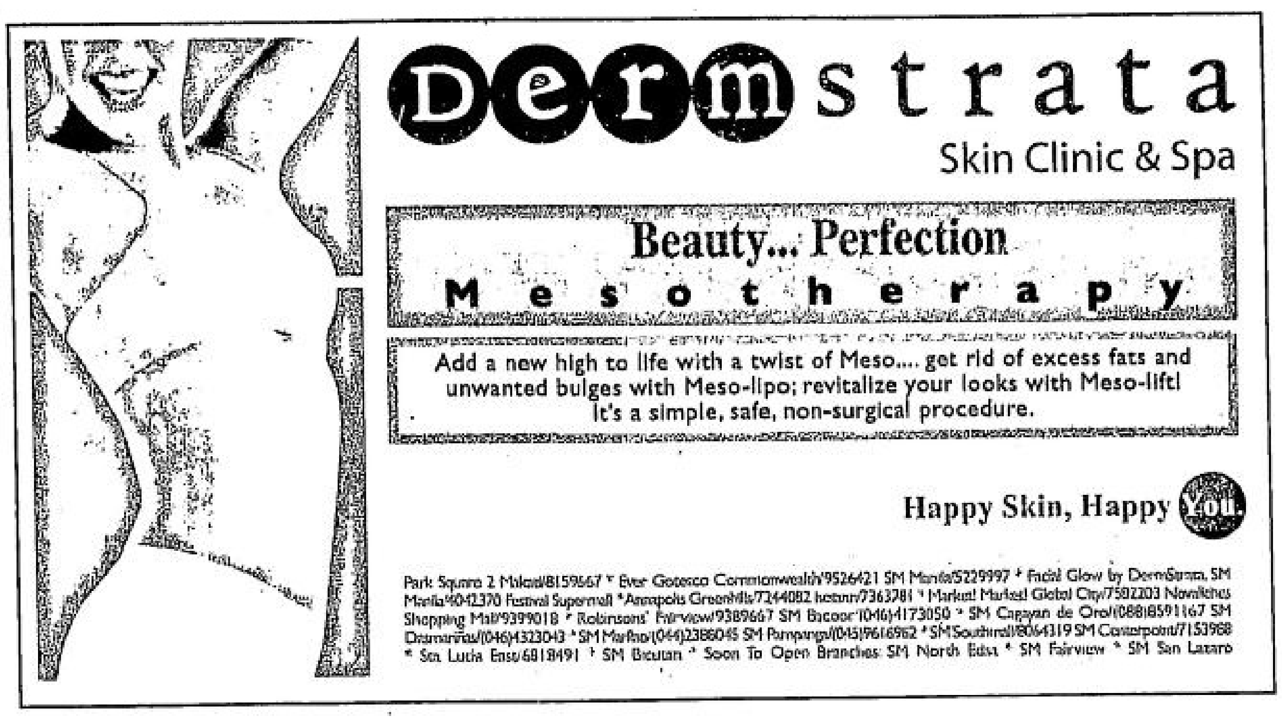
With a brilliant mind of her own, the embittered (and slightly loony) Koboi concocts an audacious, devious plan that involves getting back at everyone who got in her way back in "Eternity" and finally destroying the fairy world as we know it (or don't know it).

Call it Revenge of the Short Shift. Fowl and Short find themselves on the run and they must find a way to reconstitute Fowl's memories to thwart Koboi's diabolical plan.

Now, it will take more than Short's derring-do and Fowl's ingenious plans to save the day. It will take luck and a little help from some little- and big-friends.

DELIGHTING/ F4

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Mesotherapy

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Tears?

Amanda just can't believe how rich the simple life she leads is. Surrounded by friends, embraced by family and steeped in character from the experiences and people in her life journey, she doesn't need fine things to make her happy. And so every photograph of her reflects a serenity that comes from the memory and excitement for all the beautiful things that life has to offer, like good food shared with cherished company on the perfect beach or the overwhelming magnificence of nature, be it dazzling coral reefs or fascinating sea creatures. Life as it is just moves her.

Wanting others to experience these simple joys of life, Amanda has joined the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign of the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines (EBFP), a non-profit humanitarian organization committed to alleviating corneal blindness in Filipinos, and Visine Refresh, a tears substitute. On its tenth year, EBFP keeps the hope of restored sight alive by making corneal transplant surgery accessible to all, and prevents more unnecessary blindness by educating the public on the importance of healthy eyes.

In line with this campaign, each purchase of Visine Refresh will mean a donation to the EBFP in support of its fight against corneal blindness.

You, too, can help the EBFP by donating cash, or signing on as a cornea or eye donor. Join Amanda, Visine Refresh and the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines in the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign, and ensure that our fellow Filipinos see a bright future ahead.

For additional information,
please call (632) 893 5995
email eyebank1@ultimate.info.com.ph

Amanda Griffin

Amanda Griffin
International VJ/Model

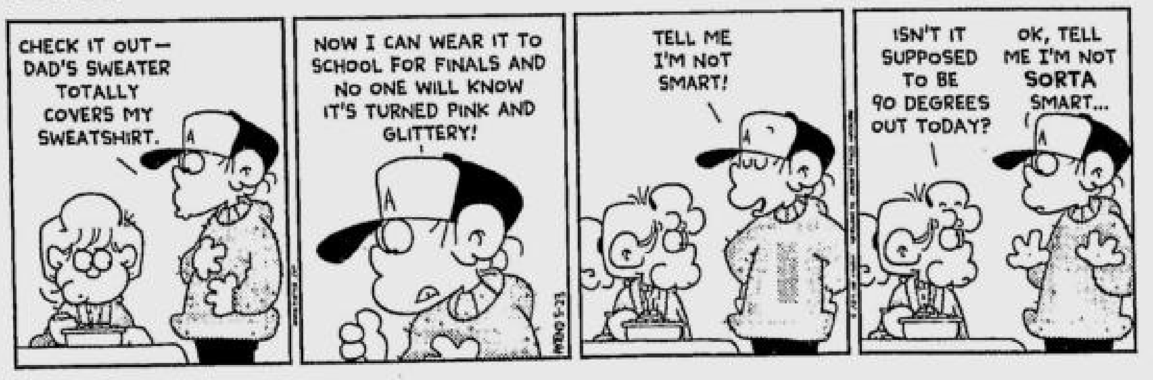
Photography Jun de Leon

EYE BANK FOUNDATION OF THE PHILIPPINES
A NON-PROFIT NON-GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION

Visine* Refresh
Pfizer made it!

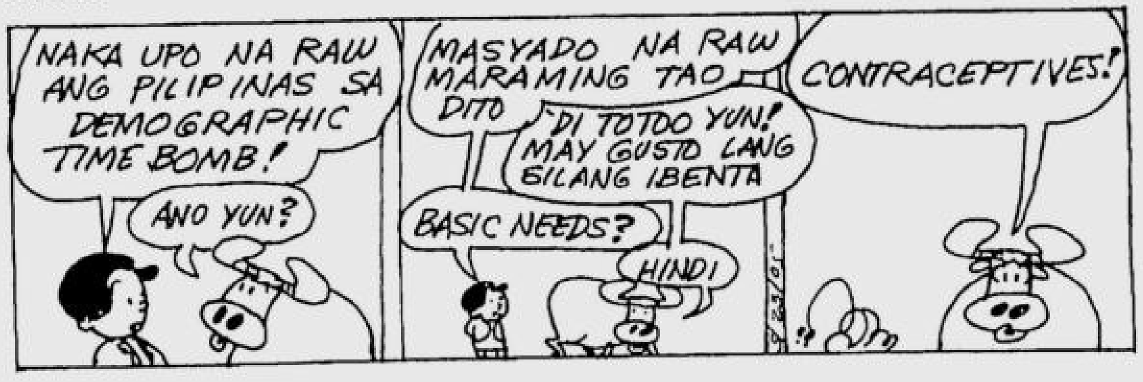
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


CHECK IT OUT— DAD'S SWEATER TOTALLY COVERS MY SWEATSHIRT.
NOW I CAN WEAR IT TO SCHOOL FOR FINALS AND NO ONE WILL KNOW IT'S TURNED PINK AND GLITTERY!
TELL ME I'M NOT SMART!
ISN'T IT SUPPOSED TO BE 90 DEGREES OUT TODAY?
OK, TELL ME I'M NOT SORTA SMART...

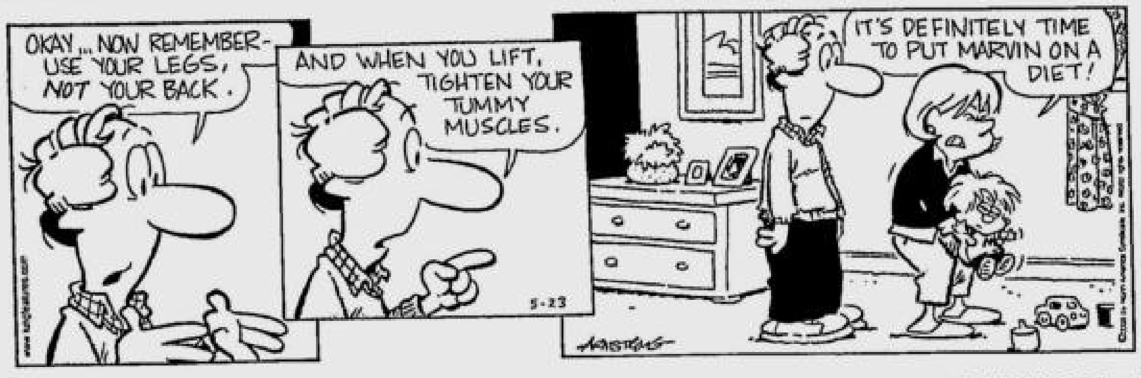
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NAKA UPO NA RAW ANG PILIPINAS SA DEMOGRAPHIC TIME BOMB!
ANO YUN?
MASYADO NA RAW MARAMING TAO DITO
BASIC NEEDS?
'DI TOTOO YUN! MAY GUSTO LANG SILANG IBENTA
HINDI
CONTRACEPTIVES!

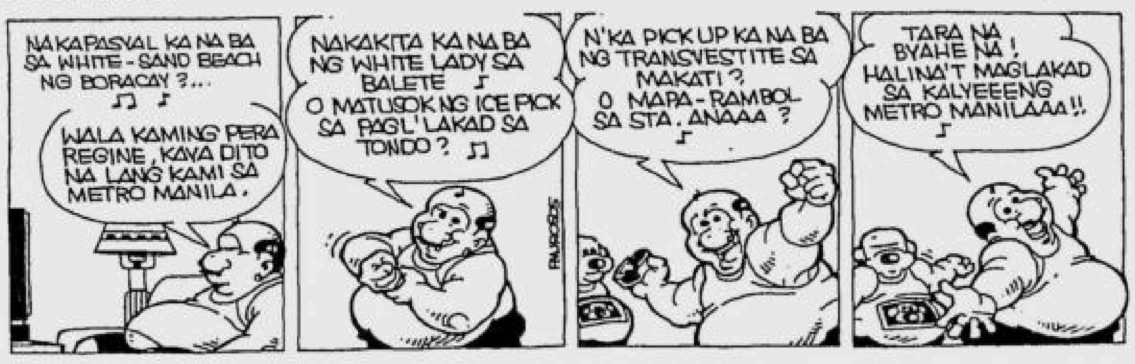
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


OKAY... NOW REMEMBER- USE YOUR LEGS, NOT YOUR BACK.
AND WHEN YOU LIFT, TIGHTEN YOUR TUMMY MUSCLES.
5-23
IT'S DEFINITELY TIME TO PUT MARVIN ON A DIET!

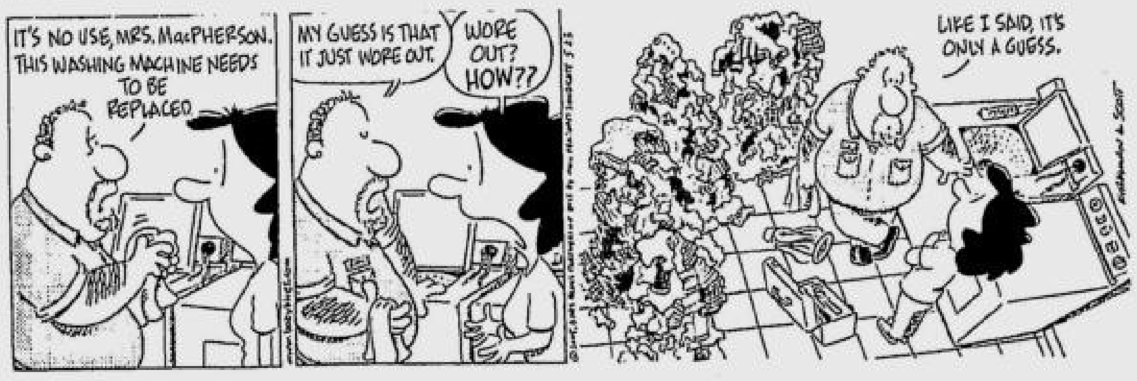
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAKAPASYAL KA NA BA SA WHITE-SAND BEACH NG BORACAY ?...
WALA KAMING PERA REGINE, KAYA DITO NA LANG KAMI SA METRO MANILA.
NAKAKITA KA NA BA NG WHITE LADY SA BALETE
O MATUSOK NG ICE PICK SA PAGL'LAKAD SA TONDO ?
N'KA PICK UP KA NA BA NG TRANSVESTITE SA MAKATI ?
O MAPA-RAMBOL SA STA. ANAAA ?
TARA NA BYAHE NA! HALINA'T MAGLAKAD SA KALYEEENG METRO MANILAAA!!

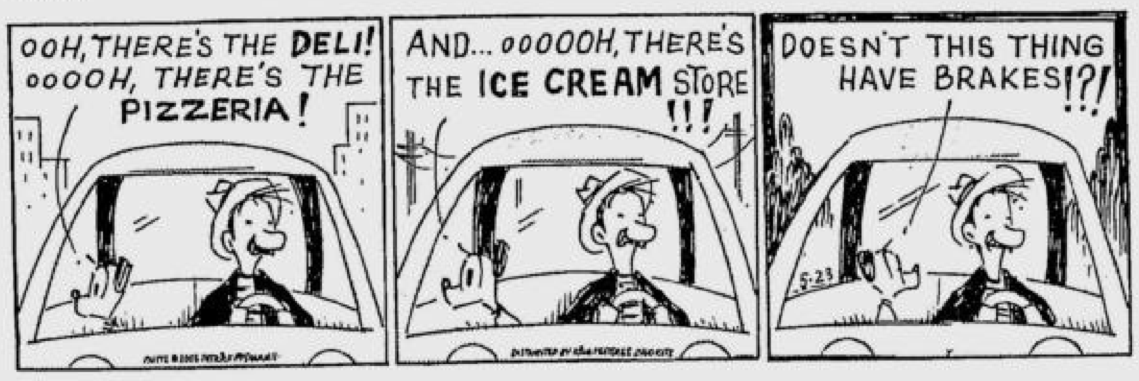
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


IT'S NO USE, MRS. MacPHERSON. THIS WASHING MACHINE NEEDS TO BE REPLACED
MY GUESS IS THAT IT JUST WORE OUT.
WORE OUT? HOW??
LIKE I SAID, IT'S ONLY A GUESS.

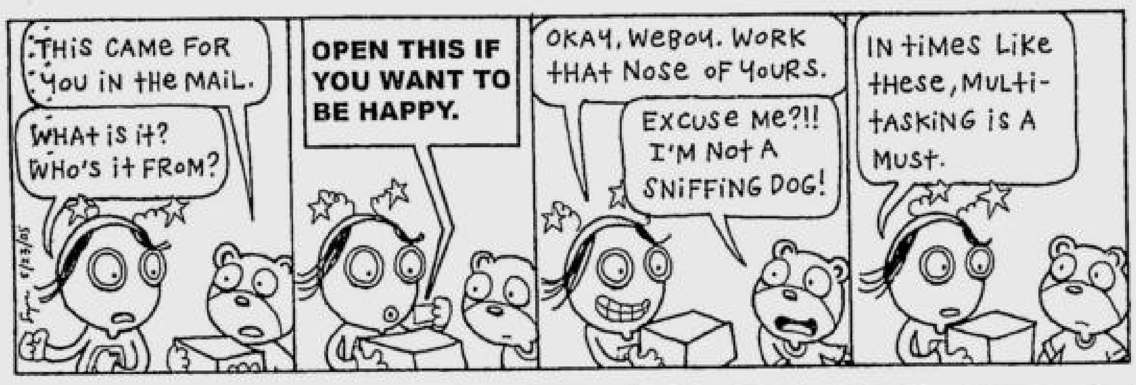
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OOH, THERE'S THE DELI! OOOOH, THERE'S THE PIZZERIA!
AND... OOOOOH, THERE'S THE ICE CREAM STORE !!!
DOESN'T THIS THING HAVE BRAKES!?!
5-23

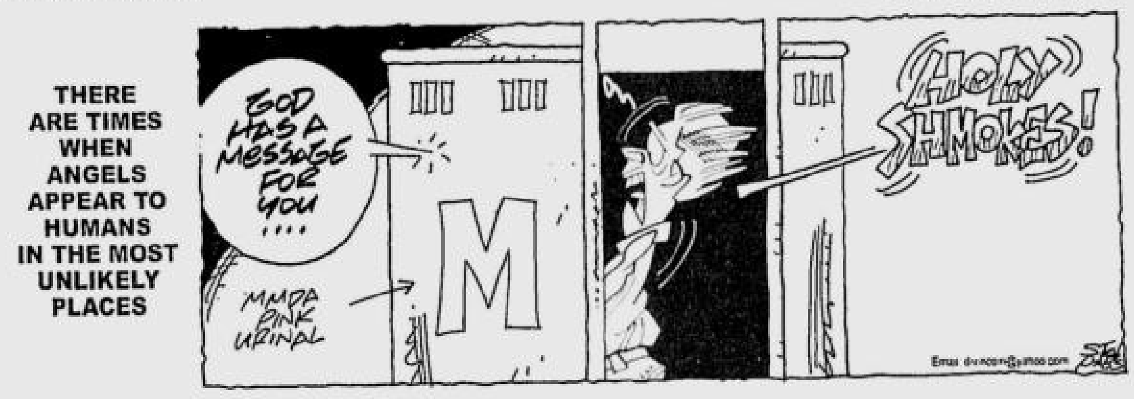
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


THIS CAME FOR YOU IN THE MAIL.
WHAT IS IT? WHO'S IT FROM?
OPEN THIS IF YOU WANT TO BE HAPPY.
OKAY, WEBOY. WORK THAT NOSE OF YOURS.
EXCUSE ME?!! I'M NOT A SNIFFING DOG!
IN TIMES LIKE THESE, MULTI-TASKING IS A MUST.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


THERE ARE TIMES WHEN ANGELS APPEAR TO HUMANS IN THE MOST UNLIKELY PLACES
GOD HAS A MESSAGE FOR YOU ....
MMDA PINK URINAL
M
HOLY SHMOKES!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're attractive and charming. You easily communicate your ideas and feelings to others. Many of you influence children in an important way. You work well with groups (often connected with music). You also have a strong scientific mind, and you're clever with your hands. An exciting year awaits you. It is full of new promise and discovery. Birthdate of: Drew Carey, comedian/actor; Joan Collins, actress; Rosemary Clooney, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Be extra-careful driving, walking, cycling or jogging today. Today's Full Moon is slightly accident-prone for your sign. Think twice before you speak. (Your mouth is accident-prone too!)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're confused about money, finances and possessions today. You're not sure how much somebody should get and how much you should hold on to. Therefore, do nothing.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today's Full Moon opposes your sign. (This means you're part of the equation, since every Full Moon is a Sun/Moon opposition.) You will have to be extra-patient dealing with everyone. No big deal.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Because the Moon is your ruler, you always feel the Full Moon. Be encouraged to know that your problems diminish after the Full Moon peaks. (Thank goodness.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're not sure where to put your energy today. You want to have fun, and yet you have responsibilities to others. Perhaps you can address both?

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today you feel the classic dilemma between the demands of career and the demands of home and family. Right now it looks like your career will win out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Today's Full Moon might make you a bit pushy with others. People don't have to agree with you. You don't have to agree with them. Relax!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're not sure how generous you should be with someone else, and how much you should protect your own financial interests. This is always a hard call. But you can't ignore the needs of others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Relations with partners and close friends are a bit dicey today. That's because today's Full Moon is in your sign! Just be diplomatic, smiling and patient with others.

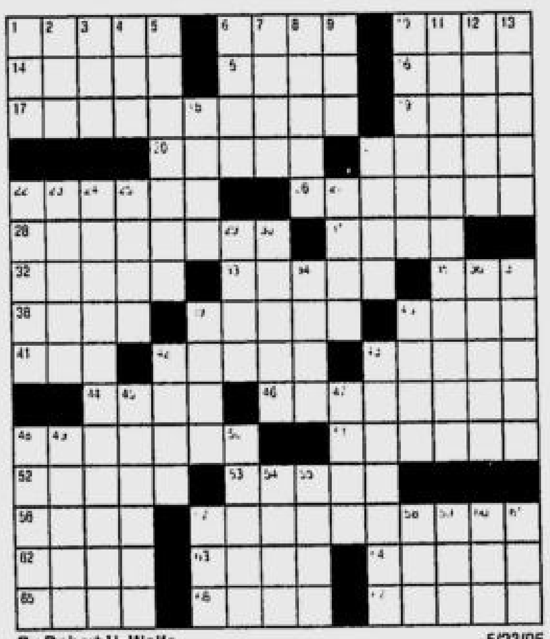
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Opposition from the government or large institutions might create delays and obstacles at work for you. Just plod along as best you can.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): A friend might be jealous of your romantic life or even of your ability to have fun and enjoy yourself. Relax. You can't please everyone.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): The demands of your career seem to get in the way of the needs of family and home today. Try to make things work out at home. Be patient with family members.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Instruct
6 Sound reply?
10 Dad
14 Large mackerel
15 Exhale forcefully
16 Broken mirror, for example
17 Colorful football vessel?
19 Sassy
20 Discernment
21 Diagram a sentence
22 Regional lingo
26 Fabled
28 Like Olympics competitors
31 Coll. army grp.
32 System of principles
33 Money hoarder
35 Loan letters
38 Pointed ends
39 The present
40 Capri or Man
41 Actor Mineo
42 Two-wheelers
43 Chanel and others
44 Very long time
46 Unhesitating
48 'Grumpy Old Men' star
51 Go by
52 Change
53 Beg
56 Wedding-cake layer
57 What agents drink from?
62 Mountain lake
63 Mr. T's last name
64 Bristol-Myers toothpaste
65 Caesar's being
66 Time periods
67 Assessed



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

5/23/05

DOWN
1 Tango number
2 Head feature
3 I knew it!
4 Pro challenger
5 Hampered movement
6 Wanes
7 Coagulate
8 Elias and Julia Ward
9 Wise bird
10 Warhol's movement
11 Patriotic sailors' vessel?
12 As such
13 Fed the kitty
18 Bridge hand
21 Destitute
22 Treaties
23 Open courtyards
24 Servers for some classic singers?
25 Corrida cries
27 Three-spot
29 Reassuring phrase
30 Apple juice
34 Unsolicited ms. enclosure
36 Schemes
37 View again
39 Actress Louise
40 Beverly Archer on 'Mama's Family'
42 Physicist Niels
43 Winter weather mass
45 Forever, in poetry
47 Shut tightly
48 Photo finish
49 Assumed name
50 Pullman berth
54 Vega's constellation
55 Self-images
57 __ Anne de Beaupre
58 Hot spring
59 Made a lap
60 Chemical suffix
61 Unhappy

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

W	A	S	P	S	■	H	E	A	D	A	C	H	E	S
A	S	P	E	N	■	I	T	S	A	S	H	A	M	E
I	S	E	R	F	■	T	H	I	N	K	O	V	E	R
T	E	E	V	E	E	■	A	S	S	■	K	E	R	I
A	N	D	E	R	S	O	N	■	■	L	E	N	I	N
S	T	I	R	S	I	N	■	A	P	O	S	T	L	E
E	T	E	S	■	A	I	R	B	A	G	■	■	■	■
C	O	R	F	■	S	O	A	R	S	■	P	A	R	T
■	■	■	■	N	O	N	F	A	T	■	L	E	E	R
P	A	R	D	O	N	S	■	D	I	V	O	R	C	E
A	V	O	W	S	■	■	S	E	N	A	T	O	R	S
S	A	T	L	■	A	B	A	■	A	L	L	S	E	T
S	T	A	L	L	I	O	N	S	■	V	I	T	A	L
E	A	R	L	Y	D	A	Y	S	■	E	N	A	T	E
D	R	Y	S	E	A	S	O	N	■	S	E	R	E	S

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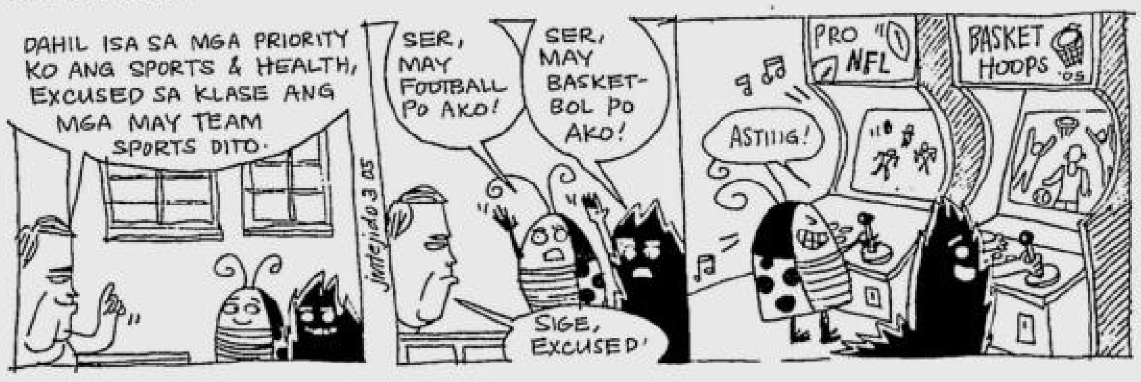
5/23/05

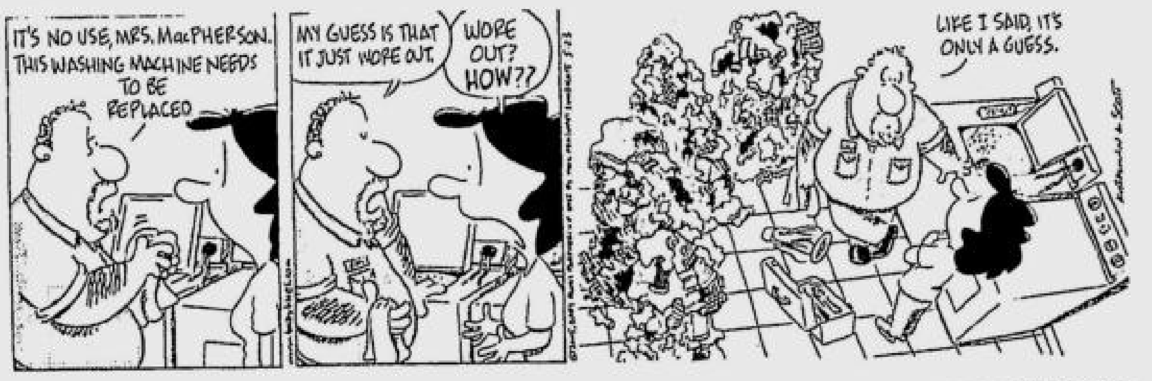
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


DAHIL ISA SA MGA PRIORITY KO ANG SPORTS & HEALTH, EXCUSED SA KLASE ANG MGA MAY TEAM SPORTS DITO.
SER, MAY FOOTBALL PO AKO!
SER, MAY BASKET-BOL PO AKO!
SIGE, EXCUSED!
PRO NFL
BASKET HOOPS '05
ASTIIG!

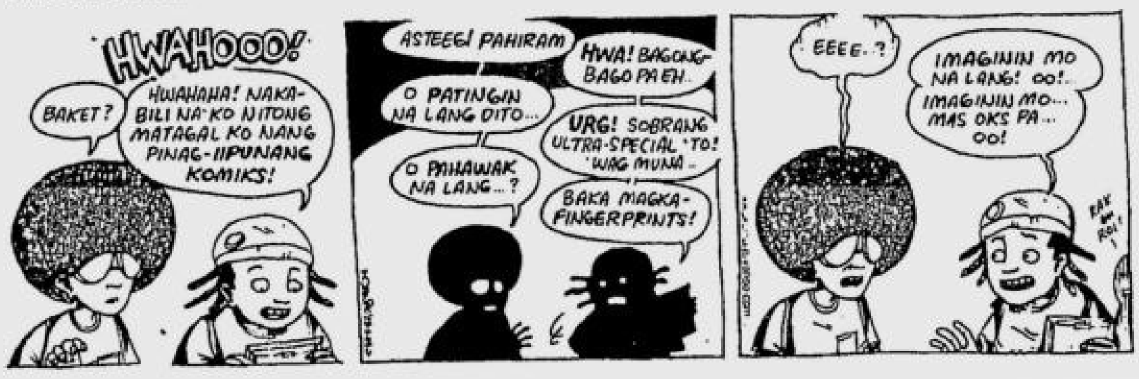
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


IT'S NO USE, MRS. MacPHERSON. THIS WASHING MACHINE NEEDS TO BE REPLACED
MY GUESS IS THAT IT JUST WORE OUT.
WORE OUT? HOW??
LIKE I SAID, IT'S ONLY A GUESS.

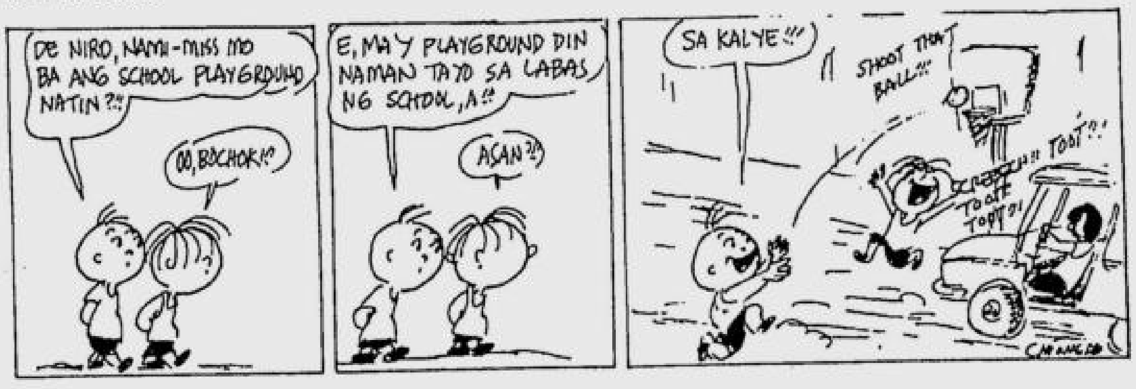
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HWAHOOO!
BAKET?
HWAHAHA! NAKA-BILI NA KO NITONG MATAGAL KO NANG PINAG-IIPUNANG KOMIKS!
ASTEEG! PAHIRAM
HWA! BAGONG-BAGO PA EH..
O PATINGIN NA LANG DITO...
URG! SOBRANG ULTRA-SPECIAL 'TO! 'WAG MUNA..
O PAHAWAK NA LANG...?
BAKA MAGKA-FINGERPRINTS!
EEEE..?
IMAGININ MO NA LANG! OO!. IMAGININ MO... MAS OKS PA... OO!

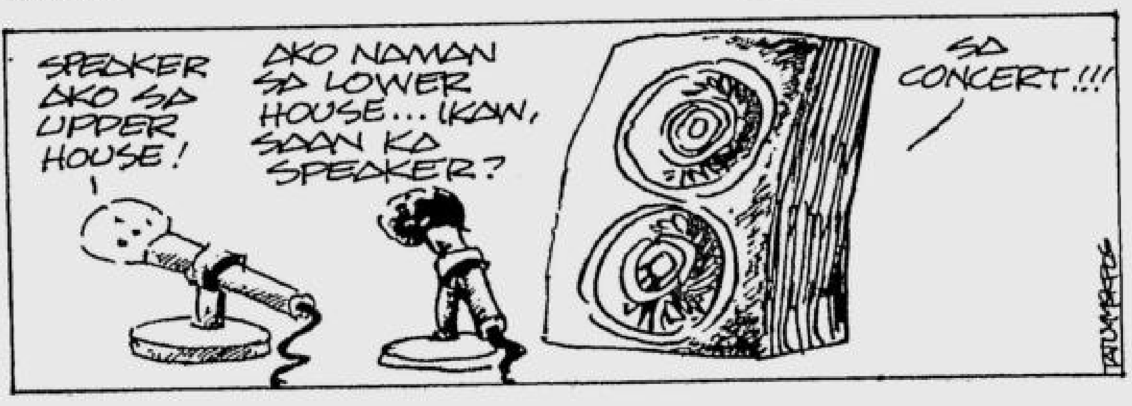
LOVEKNOTS

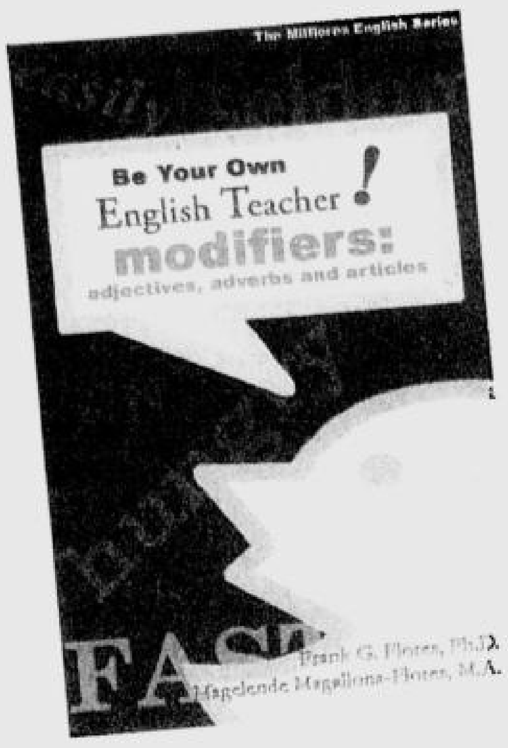
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, NAMI-MISS MO BA ANG SCHOOL PLAYGROUND NATIN?!
OO, BOCHOK!!
E, MAY PLAYGROUND DIN NAMAN TAYO SA LABAS NG SCHOOL, A!!
ASAN?!
SA KALYE!!!
SHOOT THAT BALL!!!
TOOT?!
TOOT TOOT?!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SPEAKER AKO SA UPPER HOUSE!
AKO NAMAN SA LOWER HOUSE... IKAW, SAAN KA SPEAKER?
SA CONCERT!!!


The Milflores English Series
Be Your Own
English Teacher!
modifiers:
adjectives, adverbs and articles
FAST
Frank G. Flores, Ph.D.
Magelende Magallona-Flores, M.A.

Book on English modifiers

MILFLORES Publishing, Inc. has released "Be Your Own English Teacher! Modifiers: Adjectives, Adverbs and Articles" by Frank G. Flores, Ph.D. and Magelende Magallona-Flores, M.A.

An important key to mastering the English language is the correct use of modifiers that describe, broaden, qualify, select, change or in some way affect the meaning of the words they modify.

Correct usage of the three most important modifiers—adjectives, adverbs, and articles-are clearly explained by two leading experts in this booklet. Many self-learning exercises, along with the answers, are also provided to help the reader track his/her progress.

Frank G. Flores earned his Ph.D. in English Language and Literature from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He currently teaches at the U.P. in Diliman, Q.C. and previously taught at the San Jose State University in California, Jersey City State College in New Jersey, and Nanjing University in China.

Magalende Magallona-Flores got her M.A. in English from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) and taught at the Nanjing University in China and the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Q.C., from where she recently retired.

"Modifiers" is part of the Milflores English Series that now covers all the major areas of English grammar with nine self-learning booklets written by the very best Filipino grammarians in English. These are "Business Writing," "Grammar Review," "Modifiers," "New Words," "Nouns and Pronouns," "Prepositions," Punctuation," "Spelling" and "Verbs."

"Modifiers" is available at all National Book Stores, PowerBooks, Books for Less and other major book stores at P150 per copy.

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NICK JOAQUIN LITERARY CONTEST
The annual writing contest of the Philippine Graphic Magazine was recently relaunched as "The Nick Joaquin Literary Competition" in recognition of the late National Artist for Literature Nick Joaquin who was Graphic's editor until the time of his death in April last year. On hand at the launching held during the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) salute: "Pag-alaala: Cheers to Nick Joaquin! Celebration of His Life and Works," were: NCCA executive director and PA on culture Cecile Guidote Alvarez, National Artist for Film Eddie Romero, NCCA and National Historical Institute (NHUI) chair Ambeth Ocampo, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, former senator and NCCA Law author Heherson Alvarez, and Nick's nephew Ed Joaquin.

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Actor's Actors, Inc.
silang
present
ONCE ON THIS ISLAND
A MUSICAL
music by stephen flaherty
book & lyrics by lynn ahrens
STARRING: RING ANTONIO, CATHY AZANZA, MAY BAYOT, MICHAEL DE MESA, BITUIN ESCALANTE, JEFFREY HIDALGO, MENCHU LAUCHENGCO-YULO, KRISTIAN LEI, RED NUESTRO, JETT PANGAN, BODJIE PASCUA, RADHA, GALA SANCHEZ, RAKI VEGA AND MICHAEL WILLIAMS
PRODUCTION DESIGN - GINO GONZALES LIGHTING DESIGN - JOHN BATALLA
MUSICAL DIRECTION - RONY FORTICH CHOREOGRAPHY - DENISA REYES DIRECTION - BART GUINGONA
CARLOS P. ROMULO AUDITORIUM,
RCBC PLAZA, MAKATI CITY
MAY 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, 29 at 8pm; MAY 29 at 3pm
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Book card launched

POWERBOOKS Specialty Store brings book lovers a special treat—the new Powercard. Whether it's a classic, a post-modern novel or a Da Vinci Code-like thriller, book enthusiasts can now add to their burgeoning collections while earning points and getting great discounts.

The new Powercard is a loyalty card with benefits that provide customers with, not just the thrill of getting new books, but value for their money as well.

With the new Powercard, customers earn points for every purchase. Each peso is equal to one point. Customers get P15 e-cash for every 1000 points, which can be accumulated and used to buy their choice of books. Powercard holders get a 10% discount on cash purchases or a 5% discount on credit card purchases on valid titles if total amount of their purchase reaches P2000 or more.

If total amount of accumulated purchases reaches P15,000 within a year, the Powercard will be upgraded to a Powercard Plus!

The Powercard Plus is a loyalty and discount card in one. Aside from earning points, customers automatically get discounts on valid titles no matter how much is purchased. Powercard Plus holders can also get great discounts and entrance privileges during special events and avail of other perks such as getting featured books from the Power Book Club for free. At the end of the year, the top 50 Powercard Plus holders receive a special gift from Powerbooks.

Powerbooks has branches at Greenbelt 4 (757-6428/29), Megamall (635-2898 to 99), Alabang (850-5662 to 63), and Glorietta (752-7075).

Filipino language study made easy in new book

LOOKING for a fun and sure way for non-native friends and family to learn Filipino? Then "Learn Filipino: Book One by Victor Eclar Romero" is what you're looking for. The 384-page book uses conversational Filipino and aims to make students intermediately proficient within 30 lessons. The first 15 lessons take readers through a tutorial on everyday language structures, while the next 15 engage the student in complete conversations. A companion CD enables students to practice speaking. Romero, database architect, photographer and composer, demonstrates a deep knowledge of and passion for his native language. The Tarlac-born author's book has gained a five-star rating from Amazon customers since publication. Lee Crowe of Houston, Texas says on Amazon.com: "This is the best book I have ever come across for learning Tagalog. The CD was fantastic." "Learn Filipino: Book One" is available online at www.amazon.com.

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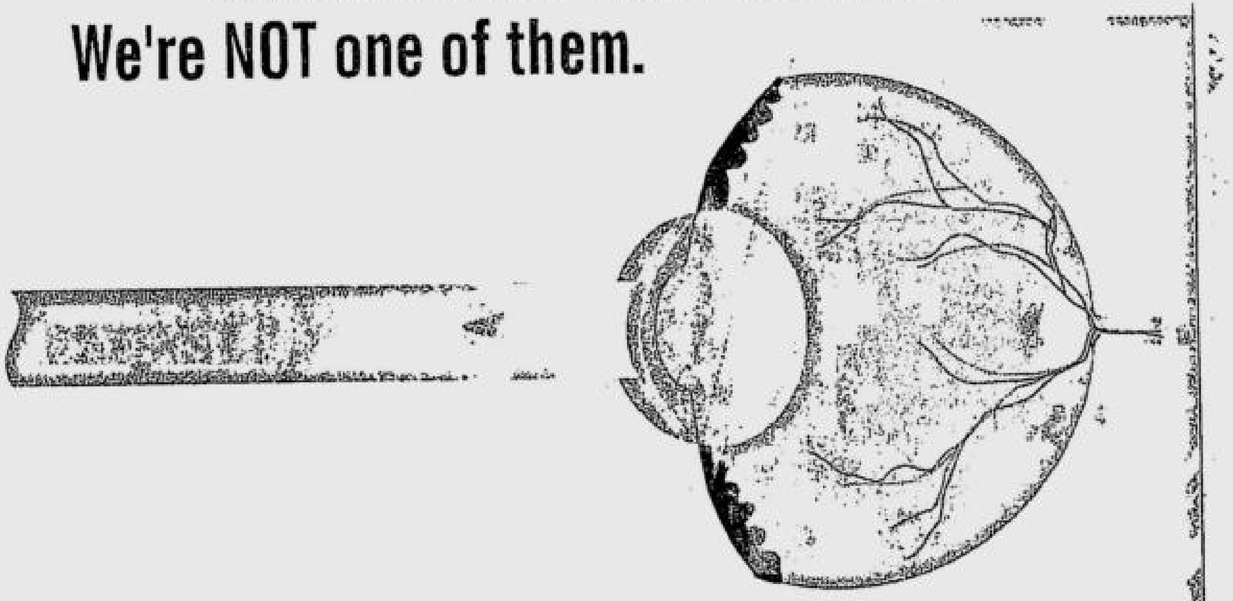

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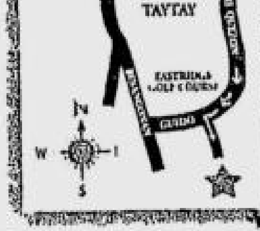

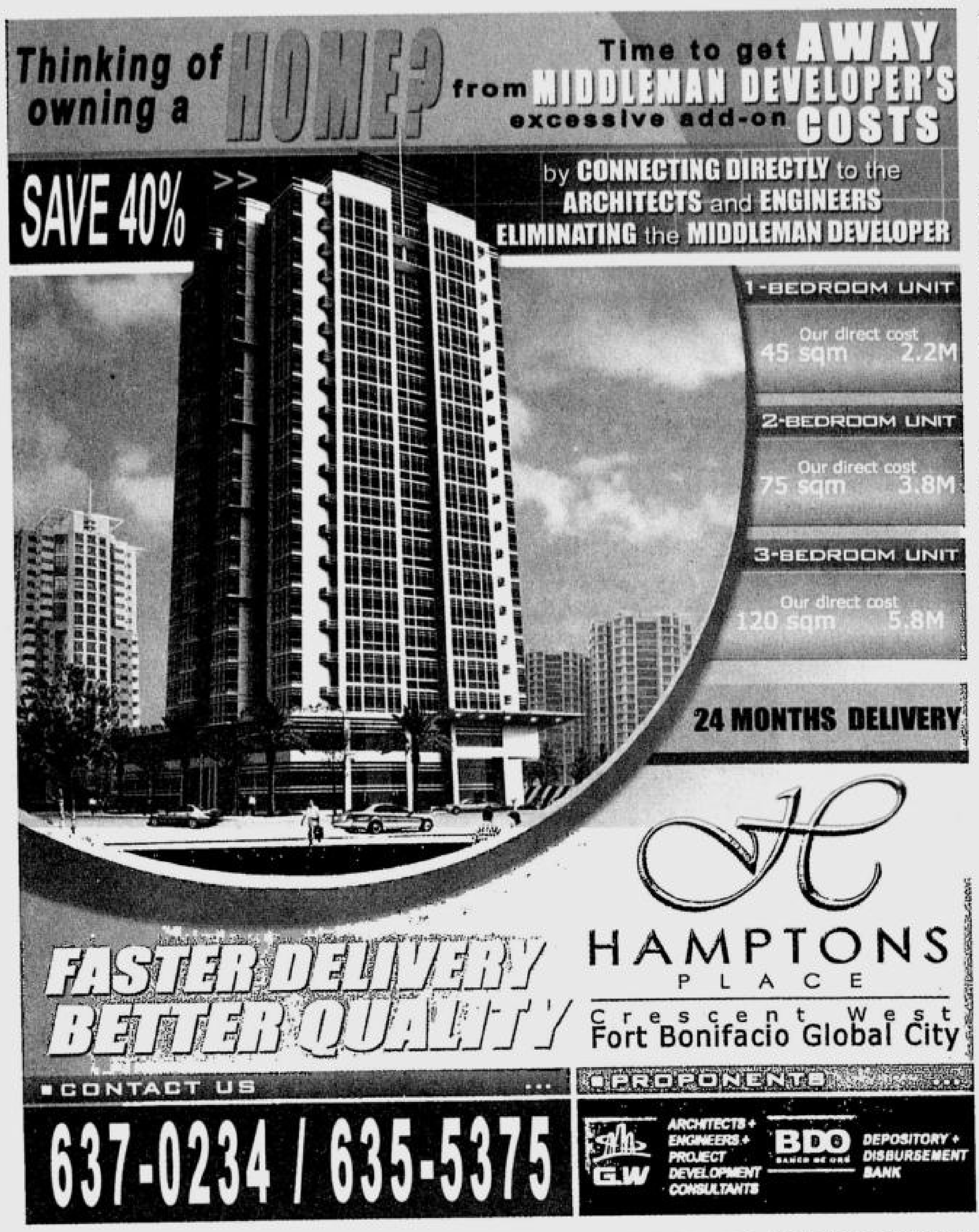
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Book board launches story-reading competition

AS PART of the celebration of the 9th Philippine Book Development Month this June, the National Book Development Board (NBDB) will launch a story-reading competition open to all Grade 5 pupils in the National Capital Region.

Fifty slots will be made available to students from both public and private schools within the said area.

Each Grade 5 learner must submit a duly accomplished application form, endorsed by a school representative, to the NBDB office on or before June 17. A 2"x2" recent colored photo must also be provided.

The application form can be obtained at the NBDB office and can also be downloaded from the agency's website at www.nbdb.gov.ph

Elimination shall be conducted in two batches, with five participants to be chosen from each batch so as to complete the 10 finalists for the final round.

The participants in the elimination rounds shall be given a list of titles to choose from. The participant may have the option of buying the book he/she chooses from the list or may borrow the book form the NBDB.

Each contestant shall be given a maximum of 10 minutes for the presentation of the story and 15 minutes to prepare for the final presentation.

The criteria are 40 percent for presentation (voice quality and performance), 30 percent for character differentiation, and 30 percent for audience impact and effectiveness of presentation.

The first batch of the elimination round will be held on June 21, while the second one will be on the following day, both at the NBDB office. The finals will be at the Riverbanks Mall in Marikina on June 28.

BACK TO SCHOOL

National Book Store welcomes the school year with the Iskulakbay promo. You can own 1 of 6 Honda Jazz and give P25,000 worth of National Book Store gift certificates to your favorite school. Buy any of the specially marked school supples, books and educational materials and get a raffle coupon with every P300 single or accumulated purchase until July 15. Visit your nearest National Book Store branch for details.

PHILIPPINE TATLER
ON THE JOYS OF MOTHERHOOD
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MANILA'S HOTTEST AND MOST DESIRED PARTY PEOPLE

All about mothers

THIS month, Philippine Tatler joins the world in paying tribute to the most important women in our lives—our mothers.

The joy of motherhood is evident in cover girl Mandy de la Rama Santos, one of the most stylish women in Manila, who reveals the bliss of being a first-time mom. Find out how Mandy coped with a difficult pregnancy and how her daughter Solenne has changed her life. She is photographed for this story by international lensman Darren Tieste.

The "Mommie Dearest" photo essay captures well-known society moms with their doting children. On the pages are Emily Lopez, Yaying Dragon, Feli Atienza, Sharmila Hiranand, Maritoni Tordesillas and Sandie Poblador, each with their own special story on parenthood and the challenges that go with it.

The magazine's annual Most Invited List also appears in this month's issue. See who tops the chart and track who has gone up or down. It's going to be a source of much table talk, so be sure you are in the know.

Ethnic and indigenous fabrics are highlighted in a fashion pictorial entitled "Future Perfect." The creations of Patis Tesoro, Dita Sandico-Ong, Jeannie Goulbourn, Ivan Aseron and Steve de Leon are captured by ace photographer Wig Tysmans.

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Delighting . . .

From page F1

Colfer brings back the old gang and injects "Deception" with his trademark humor and innovative twists.

Aside from the word play, Colfer devises some daring new high jinks to challenge Fowl and Root and even adds a tinge of sadness with the death of a major character.

There are amorous trolls, abandoned amusement parks, a purloined painting, chocolate truffles and concussive flatulence, among others. What's not to like?

Most of all, Fowl is back in fine Fowl form.

In "Deception," Fowl finds himself at a crossroads, having to choose between a thrilling life of crime and a content life with his parents: "Maybe his mother was right: He should use his talents to make others happy. But there was a darkness in him. A hard surface on his heart that would not be satisfied with the quiet life.

Maybe there were ways to make people happy that only he could achieve. Ways on the far side of the law. Over the thin blue line." It's a dilemma that all teenagers, regardless of criminal pedigree, face.

The best

With the wink-wink and wow factors racheted up, "Deception" is easily the best of the Fowl books, and the best work from Colfer to date.

Beyond the sheer fictional thrill of seeing Fowl go mind-to-mind against the similarly gifted Koboi, "Deception" blooms with a thick, creamy prose that is both playful and accessible to most armchair adventurers. There is even a code to be broken, thrown in just for good measure.

So is "Deception" the last of the "Fowl" books?

Readers will have to judge for themselves at the end of "Deception," when Fowl, Short, Koboi and company arrive at finely-hewn, fitting ends; when friendships find themselves tested and smarts challenged.

But one never knows, not even Fowl. In other words, part of the magic in Eoin Colfer's "Artemis Fowl: The Opal Deception" is that the titular anti-hero is at once so gifted and yet so utterly ordinary, like every single one of his bemused, captive readers.

Available at National Book Store and PowerBooks.